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VOLUME 1

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From a sketch made on the spot by J. Bonomi Esqr

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VISIT

TO

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ALEXANDRIA, DAMASCUS,

AND

JERUSALEM,

DURING THE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN OF

IBRAHIM PASHA.

BY EDWARD HOGG, M.D.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON
SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.
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ERRATA.

VOL. I.

Page 24, line 17, *for* Bretagne, *read* Bretagna.
32 — 5, *for* del, *read* dell.
41 — 12, *for* Dyonisius, *read* Dionysius.
105, in the note, *for* peculier, *read* peculiar.
108, line 11, *for* feathery, *read* their feathery.
120 — 6, *for* but, *read* while.

VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA,

&c.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

Welcome opportunity of visiting the East—Great political changes now in progress in Oriental countries—Security of travellers in all the territories possessed by Mohammed Ali—Utility of observing the present condition and productive capability of eastern states—Declension of Ottoman power, and evident design of Russia to enlarge her boundaries—Present feeling of Christian and Moslem population—Expediency of aiding the progress of civilisation by supporting Mohammed Ali—Such an alliance productive of mutual benefit.

In an age so prolific of travels and of books, when almost every corner of the world has been diligently explored, it seems necessary to assign a

reason why extracts from letters intended for the entertainment of a few personal friends, and transcripts from a diary kept merely for private satisfaction, should now be presented to the notice of the public. Communications thus familiar, although less calculated to interest the general reader than to contribute to the amusement of partial friends, may possibly possess sufficient variety to recommend them to some portion of public attention.

Desirous to propitiate the favourable opinion of those who may take the trouble of perusing these pages, the author assumes the permission of introducing himself to the reader as belonging to a numerous class of individuals, that, unencumbered with claims to distinction, contentedly float upon the surface of society. Having reached the stationary point when a man may be allowed to consider himself as neither young nor old,—after some years of successful professional occupation in England, he was induced to repair the inroads made by laborious exertion

on a constitution never robust, by seeking the milder climate of Italy; and Naples has finally afforded him an agreeable retreat. Little anxious for the accumulation of this world's goods, and coveting only the esteem of a few chosen friends, he would have had no inducement to quit that happy state of privacy, which is his natural sphere, if an opportunity had not unexpectedly presented itself of accompanying an intelligent friend to the East—a journey which promised to realize his long-cherished wish to ascertain the present state of countries so pre-eminently interesting as Syria and Palestine, and to investigate the proofs of early civilisation still existing in the stupendous monuments of Egypt and Nubia.

Without making any pretension to deep antiquarian research, or possessing any great disposition to enter largely into political speculations, the writer of the following sheets attentively examined the various ancient remains which so continually present themselves in the countries he passed through,

and carefully sought such information relative to the modern state of these countries, as the most competent persons with whom he happened to meet could supply. The observations thus made, and the intelligence thus obtained, together with the ordinary occurrences of the day, were regularly inserted in his note-book; and from time to time, as his progress was interrupted by unavoidable delays, these notices were transcribed, and, as opportunities offered, were forwarded to distant friends.

One of the most highly-valued of these correspondents, well known to the literary world by his antiquarian and topographical researches in Greece, and by his splendid delineations of Pompeii;* in whom extensive information, and matured judgment, are combined with kindliness of disposition and readiness to impart knowledge,—having suggested that any recent observation, however slight, of the great political changes

* To these Sir William Gell has recently added, "Topography of Rome and its Vicinity."

now going forward in the East—and of these no human sagacity can foresee the consequences—might be acceptable to the public; in deference to his suggestion, these observations have been committed to the press, although without any desire on the part of the writer to shelter himself, by this declaration, from whatever censure their defective execution may deserve.

It is hardly necessary to remark, that in passing hastily through a widely-extended region, consisting of territories differing essentially in climate, soil, and productions, and inhabited by people as different in their origin, customs, and interests, a traveller cannot be supposed to have found all the opportunities he might desire of investigating their various political and commercial relations; but the facilities afforded in Syria, by the liberal policy of Mohammed Ali, its present ruler, having been far greater than those allowed to previous travellers, some new facts may have been observed, or the means of forming new and advantageous connexions perceived,

that may, perhaps, not be deemed altogether unworthy of public consideration.

Some of the incidents hereafter related, illustrative merely of that morbidly irritable state of mind which is the natural consequence of severe bodily suffering, when aggravated by the restraint which the insufficient accommodation of an inconvenient vessel must necessarily impose, may perhaps be considered as trite and puerile; but as an invariable rule had been established of marking every day by some of its ordinary events, and as painful apprehensions, personal discomforts, and trivial occurrences, are the only varieties that chequer the monotony of a tedious sea voyage, they insensibly found their way into the following correspondence; and, in order to preserve the continuity of the narrative, it has been thought expedient to retain them here.

That the perusal of the subsequent pages may prove as efficient to the reader, as their composition did to the writer, in dissipating the dulness of an occasional weary hour,—for such must

occur in the journey of life, though, perhaps, with less frequency than they did in the shorter one here attempted to be described, is his most fervent wish. Should this object be accomplished, as no inordinate expectation of literary distinction has been entertained, he will be satisfied with the award of having contributed to the general amusement of the public without presuming that he has added very materially to its previous stores of knowledge. He does not, however, disclaim the hope of being useful to future travellers, by inciting them to a more careful investigation of the actual state, and of the productive capabilities, of these once flourishing regions; for, influenced by the usual course of their preparatory studies, they have too often confined their attention to the more attractive subjects of history and antiquities, without, perhaps, noting the gradations by which the seats of early civilization have been reduced to the lowest point of degradation and misery by the rapacity of despotic rulers, and the consequent apathy of impoverished subjects.

The important changes which have lately taken place, and are still rapidly proceeding, in the political condition of Egypt, with the probability that this long-neglected kingdom may once more resume its place among civilized nations, must, at this moment, give additional interest to any authentic information respecting its ruler or inhabitants, particularly when the almost incredible fact is stated, that so little aware was the British government, last year,* of the relative strength of the Sultan and his powerful vassal, or of the probable issue of the contest between them, that this great political movement, the natural result of the commencement of oriental reform, was considered to be nothing more than the ordinary rebellion of a refractory pasha, which would be effectually suppressed before the arrival of the newly-appointed English ambassador at Constantinople.

It requires no great political sagacity to predict, from the lately assumed aspect of the affairs

* Lord Ponsonby left Naples for Constantinople in 1833.

of the north, that the waning crescent rapidly approaches the termination of its course; and who that has witnessed the desolating oppression, the ruinous extortion, and the revolting atrocities, that, to the disgrace of humanity, have so long marked its progress, can deplore its extinction? In almost every part of the East, both Christians and Moslems unite in bitter execration against their insatiable oppressors; and the ancient prejudices of both have been so far weakened by the miseries which perpetual spoliations have inflicted, that they would joyfully receive, and heartily assist, *any* foreign power, that with sufficient strength to afford them secure protection, held out the prospect of a more just and lenient administration. The Christians, with whom it is more easy for Europeans to hold unrestrained communication, implore, as a boon from Heaven, the intervention of *some Christian state* to deliver them from the galling yoke that bows them to the earth. They are not ignorant of the long-sustained, but successful efforts of the Greeks to

emancipate themselves from four centuries of debasing vassalage; nor of the demoralizing effect of this long and cruel bondage, which ought to excite compassion, but more frequently provokes invective. They are not blind to the impotent decrepitude of the once powerful Ottoman empire, nor insensible to the growing greatness, and encroaching policy, of the sovereign of Egypt. They are quite aware that the inhospitable deserts which surround them are considered to be the ramparts of India, and that Russia casts a longing look towards these cheerless wastes. They well know that the attention of the allied sovereigns of Europe is fully engaged in maintaining the internal tranquillity of their several states. They plainly perceive that the tottering fabric of Turkish dominion is sustained only by the avowed protection of Russia—that she has never relinquished the hope of extending her empire, and is ready, whenever it may suit her policy, to plant her standard in the fertile fields of Asia;—nor are they unconscious that

by the professors of the same faith they would be acknowledged as fellow-subjects, and adopted as fellow-citizens, instead of being stigmatized as infidels and despised as slaves.

The Moslem population, always more fanatic, and still less enlightened, than those they so grievously oppress, untrained to habits of industry, and so accustomed to exercise an unresisted and rapacious authority over all who differ from them in religious belief, that this assumed right has become almost an article of their faith, now sensibly feel the want of those ample resources which the enterprise and activity of their Greek rayahs once supplied to their insatiable cupidity. Perceiving, by the decisive steps taken by Mohammed Ali to protect his Christian subjects from arbitrary exaction, that systematic pillage can no longer supply the heavy impositions with which they are themselves burdened, and aware of the large portion of civil and religious liberty wisely accorded to such Mohammedan territories as have already been incorpo-

rated with Christian empires, they would joyfully hail *any* political change calculated to secure the possession of that scanty pittance, which, when obtained without exertion, is sufficient to satisfy their limited desires.

Would that the sober voice of reason could make its way to those who rule the destinies of England !—that her statesmen could be aroused from their perilous apathy, and that their vigilant attention to her future interests could be awakened ere the war trump shall proclaim that a new irruption from the frozen regions of the north has again obtained possession of the garden of the world ! Then would they feel the necessity of changing, without delay, their feeble policy, and perceive the wisdom of aiding, with the whole weight of British influence, the extensive, but hitherto ill-directed efforts of the ruler of Egypt for the improvement of his states. We can now no longer be deceived by the shallow fallacy that the semblance of independence secured to the Turkish empire by her potent neighbour is in-

tended to be permanent. Either the boundaries that confine the great northern leviathan must be enlarged, and that in a direction hazardous to the stability of our own oriental possessions, or the new empire which has so suddenly grown up, and is so rapidly advancing in Egypt, must, by close alliance, and efficient support, be rendered an effectual barrier against future encroachment.

The new and valuable territory which the pasha of Egypt has lately acquired, and the additional resources which have been thus added to a country previously rich in productive capability, make it highly probable that he will not long submit to his present nominal dependence upon his humbled adversary. By an alliance founded on the solid basis of mutual advantage, important benefits would accrue both to Egypt and to England. The ancient commercial road to India might again be securely traversed, and a new bulwark effectually established against future intrusion. The support of an enlightened government like that of Great Britain might in-

duce the pasha to consult his own interest by adopting a more liberal policy towards his languishing fellahs, whose prosperity and happiness, although so intimately connected with his own, seem to have hitherto formed no part of his calculations. By the judicious exercise of European influence, he might be incited to extend the blessings of civilisation, the *foundations* of which are already laid in his own country, over Syria and Palestine; the former presenting a rich prospect of valuable produce, the latter consecrated by a thousand interesting associations. Under a more equitable and liberal government, population would again advance and habits of industry be established, the boundaries of human happiness would be enlarged, and new wants created, that would open a wide field for commercial enterprise. The preponderating influence of the pasha in Arabia might eventually lead to some gleams of light penetrating that dark and infatuated country;—facilities offered by the Nile, might be secured

for establishing a beneficial intercourse with the centre of Africa;—the slow but sure progress of civilisation might easily be directed to Abyssinia, already prepared to receive it;—and thus some hope might be rationally entertained of the gradual abolition of those inhuman practices that now disgrace these unhappy countries, while at the same time, their gold, ivory, and other precious commodities might, with equal advantage, be exchanged for the merchandise of Europe.

CHAPTER I.

Commencement of narrative—Departure from Naples—Capri—Description of Sapphire Grot—Stromboli—Messina—Ancient Theatre of Taormina—Catania—Interruption of journey to Syracuse—Familiarity of Sicilian servants—Antiquities of Syracuse—Voyage to Malta.

If I am to give you, in the course of my correspondence, a faithful account of the different places we may visit, and a narrative of the various adventures that may befall us by sea and by land, you must allow me to insert from my diary the ordinary events and common-place incidents that usually mark a traveller's progress; and when objects occur that seem to merit a more extended notice, I will do my best to satisfy

your *antiquarian* curiosity, at any suitable place where we may happen to be detained.

Without further preface, then, I proceed to inform you, that on the day I took leave of you at Naples, (April 27th, 1832,) my companion and myself embarked, at half-past four in the afternoon, in the ship Giorgio, Captain Costa, bound to Messina. We set sail at five, and at half-past six passed Capri with a full and favouring breeze. As we approached this beautiful island, the declining sun showed its irregular and picturesque outline to great advantage, and threw the rocky inequalities of its sides into fine masses of light and shade. That part of its singularly-formed summit which faces Sorrento, frowned upon us in deep shadow as we passed, reminding us, that from this tremendous precipice Tiberius caused those who had unhappily incurred his displeasure, to be thrown into the sea.

It is impossible to pass this romantic island without recollecting some of the memorable

circumstances connected with its history. In the year 1808, it was gallantly attacked, and successfully wrested by Murat from the hands of the English. The situation of one of the villas of Tiberius on its most elevated summit, is marked by massive walls and spacious vaults, and the sites of other edifices, probably, imperial residences, are elsewhere indicated by extensive foundations, and widely-spread fragments. But the most attractive object, and one which you have not yet visited, is the SAPPHIRE GROT, at the northern extremity of the island, which, having only been recently re-discovered, of course excites considerable attention. The sole entrance to this remarkable cavern is a small semicircular opening, close to the edge of the water, at the base of an almost perpendicular cliff, which here dips from a great height into the sea. In form it closely resembles the mouth of an oven, which it exceeds but little in size; yet, immediately within, it enlarges into a grotto of considerable dimensions, with an arched roof that

spans like a dome a placid expanse of water, of the deepest azure. A signal being made, a long, narrow boat, specially constructed to convey visitors within the cave, pushes from the shore; but the entrance can only be effected when the weather is perfectly calm, and at the favourable moment of the reflux of the waves. The visitor now places himself below the edge of the boat, which two guides adroitly and speedily conduct through the narrow passage. He then finds himself in a spacious, circular cavern, into which the direct rays of light only penetrate through the aperture by which he has entered; and this not being more than four feet either in height or breadth, the space within would be a mere gloomy and obscure recess, were it not distinguished from all other known caverns by the peculiarity which has conferred upon it the name of the Sapphire Grot. To understand this it must be remembered, that the entrance to this singular cave is to be considered as the apex of a subaqueous arch, springing on one

side from the bottom of the sea, and on the other from a ledge of rock near the surface of the water. Thus the greater part of the light within is derived from the rays that pass through the blue waters of the surrounding ocean. By this denser medium some of these rays are intercepted and absorbed, while the remainder refracted by passing through the water, and then reflected upwards from the bottom, diffuse a rich blue colour over the roof and sides of this beautiful grotto, which is finely varied in appearance by the direct rays that pass through the entrance, as they fall on the undulating surface of the waves within.

The singular effect of light, thus passing through an aqueous medium, is here further illustrated by the shadow of the boat being thrown upon the roof of the cave, as well as by an experiment, easily made, of closing entirely the entrance of the grot, which increases the intensity of the rich cerulean tints that so conspicuously distinguish it. That portion of the cave

which is filled by the sea does not possess a width of perhaps more than seventy or eighty feet, yet the imagination is so powerfully aided by the blue aerial perspective, that it requires a positive exertion of the reasoning faculty to form a correct estimate of its real dimensions.

At the farthest extremity of the cavern, a wide and shelving portion of rock affords a convenient landing-place, beyond which are some vestiges of steps. These appear to lead to the termination of a subterraneous entrance from the island, now obstructed with rubbish, and hitherto unexplored. It cannot be supposed that the present opening to this remarkable grotto escaped the notice of the ancients, or that the imperial voluptuary, who sought with such avidity new sources of enjoyment, neglected, during his long residence here, the advantages presented by a cavern, apparently designed by nature to contribute to royal luxury. This favoured spot may well be imagined, during the

oppressive heat of summer, to have been often the joyous scene of imperial revels,—its sides, perhaps, gemmed with the varied spoils of the depths beneath, and its retired recesses converted into coral bowers. Here a mimic Venus, in her pearly car, drawn by dolphins, and surrounded by Cupids and Graces, may have floated luxuriously on the azure waves; and Neptune, wielding his trident, may here have assembled his tritons, and other fabled monsters of the deep, to dissipate, by their antic gambols, the listless languor of the imperial recluse. But enough.

As we proceeded on our course, we passed three insulated, rocky projections, that, like the Needles, near the Isle of Wight, seem to start perpendicularly from the bosom of the ocean. These natural ramparts here assume the appearance of ancient constructions, the central mass resembling the ruin of a gothic gable, pierced with a gigantic gateway. The approach of night at length concealed the romantic beauties of this ever-varying coast. The gale, however,

still favoured our progress, although it now began to blow with sickening freshness.

On the 28th, the wind was still fair, and at daybreak several of the Lipari Islands were in sight. At two in the afternoon, we passed close to Stromboli, a huge, ill-shaped cone, rising directly out of the sea. The sailors had observed little fire on its summit during the night, and we now perceived only a small column of smoke; but from the lava which continually rolls down the side of the mountain, a light vapour issued similar to that arising from the recent stream that covers the side of Vesuvius. The form of this island, as seen from the sea, is that of a flattened cone, with a disproportioned base. Its height has been estimated at two thousand feet, and its circumference is said to be about nine miles.

By six in the evening, we came within sight of the far-famed rock of Scylla, and soon afterwards perceived that we were involved in the turbulent eddies of Charybdis. Although the

dangers of this powerful current were, doubtless, much exaggerated by the ancients, yet our captain assured us, that by incautious steering a small vessel would still inevitably be stranded on the coast, or dashed against the rock, and that even a large one would be inconveniently whirled about by its irresistible force.

We passed the Faro of Messina at seven; but the wind dying quite away, we were unable to gain the harbour before sunset, and consequently were not permitted to land till the following morning. Thus we had the mortification of sleeping another night on board, within sight of the town; and it was eight in the morning (April 29th) before the tedious ceremonies of the health-office allowed us to land.

We now soon reached the Gran Bretagne Hotel, and found the fare excellent, at prices not unreasonable. After a walk through the town, we took our departure at two o'clock for Catania, accompanied by a fellow-passenger from on board the Giorgio, who decided to pro-

ceed with us to Malta, where he was going to join his regiment. We agreed to pay seventeen dollars for two carriages, with three horses each, to convey the party, our servant, and baggage, (of which we had more than enough,) to Catania, by four o'clock on the following afternoon.

It was too dark when we entered the harbour to form any idea of the appearance of Messina from the sea. I observed, however, this morning, that the town is beautifully placed at the foot of a range of irregular declivities, with a fine sweep towards the harbour. The port, which from its form the Greeks compared to a sickle, has the appearance, on shore, of a circular basin, and the Marina, which borders it for at least a mile, is every where lined with masonry, and thus forms a magnificent quay, where the numerous vessels are moored, while taking in and discharging their various cargoes.

The town is handsomely built, the streets are

wide, and it has altogether a neat, but, after the bustle of Naples, a somewhat cheerless aspect.

From Messina, the road winds along the coast close to the sea, with romantic heights and irregular glens stretching out to the right. Beautiful plants, in great variety, and many of them in flower, are every where to be seen. The most conspicuous among them is a shrubby solanum,* with prickly leaves, a blossom like that of the potato, and a yellow fruit the size of a small apple.

As we advanced we passed several beautiful rocky islands close to the shore, and a little beyond perceived the site of Taormina, with the splendid remains of a theatre situated on a hill to the right. The road, cut across the face of the cliff, now descends to Giardini, thirty-two miles from Messina, where we arrived at eight o'clock. Here we found a rustic and slenderly-provided village inn; and the only supper we could procure consisted of fresh

* Solanum Marginatum.

boiled lobsters, and a dish of prawns, to which our driver added some quails that he had providently purchased on the road. The only accommodation afforded by this inn is one large room, containing two beds, and two dark recesses enclosed by scanty curtains, in each of which another bed is placed. We found, however, the people civil and attentive, and not exorbitant in their demands.

At five o'clock the next morning we set off to examine the theatre at Taormina, the situation of which is one of the finest imaginable. We ascended on donkeys a steep hill by an ancient paved road, and reached, on its summit, a miserable modern town. Every thing here, a numerous population not excepted, wore the squalid aspect of poverty and wretchedness. A little, intelligent cicerone, the schoolmaster of the town, came to do the honours of the ancient theatre. Placed in an imposing situation, on the side of a hill overlooking the sea, it commands a magnificent prospect of the coast of

Calabria on one side, as well as that of Sicily with Mount Etna on the other. Portions of each of its various compartments are still sufficiently entire to admit of the plan of its original construction being easily ascertained. Our loquacious cicerone gave us an elaborate, and, as he thought, an interesting explanation of the various divisions and their several uses. Taking his station on that portion originally occupied by the performers, he made a long Latin declamation, requesting us to place ourselves at various elevations, and at length to mount the upper ranges of seats, where he convinced us, that without making any extraordinary effort, his voice might be distinctly heard. Above Taormina is a still higher mountain peak, on which is a castellated building; and, in front of the town, towers, and walls with battlements, seemed to belong to the middle ages.

After a meagre breakfast, but the best that the inn at Giardini afforded, we left that

place at seven o'clock, and proceeded to Giarrè, and from thence walked to Riposto, a small neighbouring seaport, where we had been told there was a vessel about to sail for Malta. As we could not be allowed to ascertain what accommodations she afforded till the next day, on account of her being in quarantine, we speedily returned to Giarrè, where there appears to be a large and starving population, and where we saw an inn much to be preferred to that of Giardini. This neat little town would divide better than Giardini the distance between Messina and Catania; and by setting off early in the morning, two hours might still be spent at Taormina. The next place we reached was Aci Realè, a small, new built town, regularly laid out in straight and wide streets, but with none of the houses finished above the first story. A little farther on, we passed Aci di Catena, and Aci di San Nicolo; both pretty towns, and everywhere surrounded by exuberant fertility. As we approached Catania, and con-

sequently traversed the widely expanded base of Mount Etna, the road continually crossed streams of lava that had formerly descended from the mountain to the sea. These, in their windings, often assumed the forms of romantic, irregular glens of the highest picturesque beauty. The surfaces of some of the streams having, by decomposition, become capable of cultivation, had been sown with corn, and planted with vines, orange, and fig trees. Others, again, of more recent formation, exhibited huge craggy masses, alternating with hollows and picturesque crevices; among which sprung up luxuriant groups of Indian figs, mingled with the slender branches and delicate blossoms of the graceful oleander, while several species of brilliant yellow flowers, interspersed with rich tufts of pink valerian, in full bloom, covered with splendid garlands this smiling wilderness.

Neither in a state of wildness nor culture did I ever before see nature assume so rich and varied an aspect. Here were proofs of that

system of destruction and reproduction which is constantly going forward; and by these we are convinced that *compensation* is one of her immutable laws. Inert masses of matter are subjected by contact to the influence of chemical affinity; in certain situations volcanic explosions are the result, and these spread devastation around; but when time has decomposed the semi-vitrified surface of this new stratum, and by producing fresh combinations, has developed the fertilizing principle it contains, the barren waste is converted into a flowery paradise, and the arid desert into a fruitful Eden.

As we proceeded, the fertility of the soil in every direction was strikingly luxuriant. Here and there orange groves presented specimens of trees larger than any I had before seen, and the level districts were on every side covered with vines, now beginning to make their first shoot. The latter are here universally cut down to within six inches of the ground, a mode of cul-

tivation which accounts for the superior strength and excellence of Sicilian wines.

At half past four we reached Catania, and were soon comfortably settled at the Albergo del Elefantè, with the arrangements of which we were perfectly satisfied. Catania is certainly the most regular, clean looking, and best built town that I have yet seen in the Italian states. The churches, public buildings, and many of the private houses, are begun upon a magnificent scale, but, for the most part, they have only the first or second story finished; or if completed, the architectural ornaments originally designed for them have never been terminated. The streets are wide, well-paved, and furnished with *trottoirs*, although too narrow to be useful, an inadvertence of little consequence in a town where few wheeled carriages are used. There is always some degree of activity in the streets, but in the evening they are crowded with pedestrians, and the

venders of eatables and other small wares, like their prototypes at Naples, animate the scene by constant and obstreperous clamour.

On the following day we farther explored and greatly admired the various parts of the town. The regularity of the plan, and the substantial appearance of the buildings reminded us all of Turin, which, however, it resembles in no other respect. In the middle of the square, by the side of our hotel, is the fragment of a granite obelisk, now raised on the back of an elephant, and converted into one of the ornaments of a fountain. This may possibly be an ancient and interesting monument, and should we pass this way on our return from Egypt, I may perhaps be able to appreciate its value.

On the first of May we found a Maltese felucca about to return to that island, and engaged our passage—three principals and one domestic—for twenty dollars. We then arranged to go to Syracuse by land on the succeeding day, and to leave our baggage and servant to follow in the

evening by the vessel, which we appointed to call for us there. As my servant's name, to save trouble, was inserted in my passport, it was necessary to obtain permission from the police for him to proceed alone, although in charge of our baggage. For this purpose I waited on the English vice-consul, and requested him to solicit that indulgence, which we were told would be granted as a matter of course. An accommodation, however, thus trifling, the worthy vice-consul declined attempting to procure. Some men are said to have the art of making a refusal more palatable than others do their assent. I have no experience, certainly, of this gentleman's mode of assenting, but we none of us thought his manner of refusing remarkable for courtesy. The master of our hotel kindly went with us afterwards to the police, and making the necessary explanations, easily obtained for us the permission we required.

In the afternoon we visited the Benedictine convent outside the town—a large and splendid

establishment, with a fine garden, surrounded by a bed of lava, from which it is said to have escaped destruction by *miracle*. We examined, also, an ancient amphitheatre, excavated with great labour from masses of lava in which it is embedded; and saw the museum of the Prince of Biscari, a large and well-arranged collection, containing many valuable objects of local antiquity, but few articles of general interest.

On Wednesday, at six in the morning, we mounted three mules, and taking another for some light articles of baggage, set forward to Syracuse, a distance of forty miles. I found in less than an hour the awkward, high saddle upon which I was perched, so thoroughly uncomfortable, the animal so obstinate and skittish, and his paces so uneasy, that I decided upon taking leave of my companions, returning to Catania, and proceeding by the felucca to Syracuse the following night. On reaching the hotel, I was civilly invited by the proprietor to join some of his friends, whom he had engaged

to dine at a casino he possesses a little way in the country. This unexpected resource I gladly accepted, and found a pretty cottage, of one story, with a garden in front, ornamented with vases, fountains, and compartments of flowers, the whole surrounded by an orchard of orange and fig trees. Various guests, both male and female, including two military officers, by degrees arrived, until at length fourteen or fifteen were assembled by the time we sat down to an abundant and well-served dinner. The whole circle seemed in exuberant spirits, and our meal was enlivened by constant and cheerful conversation. Bon-mots, scraps of rhyme, both quoted and improvised, and many a smart repartee, in all of which "mine host" seemed quite at home, frequently excited the risibility of the guests; but being in the Sicilian dialect, they were for the most part lost upon me, or deprived of much of their point by a second-hand explanation. Two of the ladies of the party had brought each a female attendant. One

of them was a young and handsome, olive-complexioned girl, the other, somewhat older and coarser, but with fine, large, laughing eyes; both were smartly dressed, and walked, without the slightest restraint, about the house and gardens, apparently with great enjoyment, and not unfrequently mixing in the conversation of the party.

Sometime after the conclusion of dinner, the various guests seated themselves before the house in the shade, and near them stood the two waiting maids in a conspicuous station. The conversation, at length, seemed jocularly to turn upon these damsels, whose personal charms, as far as I could comprehend, appeared to be commented upon, compared, and contrasted, with a degree of ironical drollery that produced much mirth. This seemed to incite them to take up individually their own defence, and ultimately to become themselves the principal combatants. They now stood forth, side by side, in a broad walk, as if with the view of showing their persons

to advantage, and then began each to vaunt her own attractions, and to depreciate those of her rival; to boast of the conquests they had each made, the great offers they had refused, and the various and tempting solicitations they had resisted;—but with such energy and variety of tone, and with such expressive gestures, as could only be equalled by first-rate performers in low comedy on the stage. This contest, prolonged to weariness, which I sometimes feared would have ended in blows, appeared to give great delight to the rest of the audience. They laughed immoderately, often joined in the dispute, and alternately encouraged both the one and the other. I regretted much my inability to understand what was said; but was told that they had displayed an abundant store of coarse wit and satirical shrewdness, and that the inferior classes here have a strong disposition to assail each other with humorous invectives and sarcastic recriminations.

After walking through the village, situated just

beyond the casino, I went with the majority of the party, to see some extensive plantations of orange and lemon trees, belonging to the father of one of the guests. This tract, now covered with luxuriant fruit-trees, was ten years ago a hard and unproductive mass of lava; but the skill and capital of the present proprietor have converted its sterility into fruitfulness, and covered its whole surface with profitable productions. Here, under a shed, many individuals were employed in paring lemons, for the purpose of obtaining the essential oil from the peel, and the juice from the pulp, both important articles of commerce, and largely and profitably exported.

At ten o'clock the next evening, I went on board the San Domenico, felucca, bound to Malta. I found thirteen passengers already there, with whom, and their bedding and baggage, together with the usual complement of packages, casks, ropes, &c. the deck was so completely encumbered, that it was with difficulty I could find a

solitary resting-place upon a coil of ropes; and although the servant had embarked with our baggage three hours before, yet I found every thing scattered about in "most admired disorder." About midnight I succeeded in getting my mattress placed in a dirty, confined den, called by courtesy "a cabin," in which piles of various kinds of lumber had been already stowed away. On taking possession of my mattress in this gloomy retreat, I soon found that a colony of hungry fleas were attracted by a new prey; and at daylight discovered, by their size, that they must belong to an elephant species, peculiar, to this climate.

We had a tolerable wind during the night, and reached Syracuse about eight o'clock the following morning, (May 4th,) where, after passing through the requisite ceremonies at the health-office, I was soon joined by my two companions, on their way to meet me. We returned together to the hotel, which, after the felucca, seemed

clean and comfortable, but independently of that might be considered a fair specimen of a country inn. Breakfast and our mutual adventures discussed, we set forth to explore some of the ancient remains that abound in the neighbourhood of this once celebrated city. At the distance of a mile from the town, large portions of an amphitheatre, and of a theatre, still exist, hewn out of the solid rock. Near the same place, an extensive series of capacious excavations have the appearance of ancient quarries, one of them popularly called the "Ear of Dyonisius." This, the most remarkable for its ample dimensions, and for the distance to which it penetrates within its stony bed, terminates above at a great height, in the shape of a pointed arch. It possesses the usual reverberating powers that belong to its size and form; and the report of a pistol, generally fired at its entrance by the guides, serves to astonish the ignorant by its loud and frequently repeated echoes. In the face of the cliff, immediately over the, so called, "Ear of Dyonisius," is

a small excavated chamber, at least fifty feet from the bottom, and apparently twenty from the top of the quarry; and this almost inaccessible station has been credulously believed to be that of the listening tyrant when these long and dreary vaults were the receptacles of prisoners of state. If it can be imagined that cruelty was ever carried so far as to convert these gloomy recesses into places of confinement, a heartless tyrant may well be supposed to have treacherously listened to their mutual recriminations, and even luxuriated in the unavailing lamentations of his hapless victims. As the only access to this reputed inquisitorial chamber is through a square aperture in one of its sides, to which it is necessary to be drawn up with ropes—and this must be performed by men who have first to climb thither themselves—I did not consider the appearance of those who offered their services for this purpose, to be sufficiently robust to warrant my submitting to the process.

I next saw the catacombs, which are extensive

and curious, but, as far as I went, present no novelty in the arrangement of the numerous cavities prepared for the bodies they once contained. I know not whether they are to be attributed to a very remote epoch, or whether, as it appeared probable to me, they had been constructed in the early ages of Christianity.

I visited also another extensive and curious quarry at the Capuchin convent, situated at some distance from the town. The upper portions of many of these excavations are wrought, like those I had before seen, into a pointed arch; but a remarkable and unexpected peculiarity here presents itself. The bottom of this vast area, which must anciently have been quarried for ages, is now formed into a fertile garden, cultivated with care, filled with luxuriant vegetation, and shaded by magnificent orange, lemon, and fig trees.

The museum here is small, badly kept, and contains few objects of particular interest, except, perhaps, a mutilated Venus, which seems to deserve restoration, and to be worthy of a

conspicuous place in the national collection. Near the sea, the ancient fountain of Arethusa still pours forth its copious streams, but now forms only a convenient station for laundresses, and serves as a bathing-place for the children of the town.

We were anxious to sail the same evening, but some difficulty (more likely chicanery to detain us another night at the inn) was said to have arisen about getting the necessary signatures to our papers at the police-office; we had therefore to seek the Cavaliere Bosco, whom we had discovered by chance to be here, and to whose kind interest and personal exertion we were entirely indebted for getting the affair arranged. With this gentleman we had, fortunately, the pleasure of being previously acquainted at Naples, and it was not less agreeable than useful to us to meet him here. He possesses a spacious and handsome family residence in the middle of the town, which, however, his official duties about the court will rarely allow him to inhabit; and his

estates in this neighbourhood produce delicious wine, as we had an opportunity of proving by his obliging present of a dozen bottles. By perseverance, all the petty official difficulties were at length surmounted, and at sunset we went on board the felucca, where the whole of the passengers who came with us from Catania had already assembled. At bed-time I again crept into the disgusting cabin I had occupied the preceding night, being fearful of the dampness of the deck, where my companions had directed their mattresses to be laid.

Having passed, in my nest of vermin, a night of irritation and restlessness, in the course of which the vessel made little way, I gladly rose at day-break on the following morning. We were, in truth, inconveniently compressed within very narrow limits by the large cargo of *live stock* which our little vessel contained,—for what with the necessary complement of sailors, ourselves, and thirteen other passengers, with the bedding and baggage belonging

to such a party, all stowed upon deck, to say nothing of a cargo of cheese, &c. beneath, we had hardly room to move; so that, sick to death of dirt and confinement, and unable to direct my attention, by reading, to other objects, I now felt surrounded by as many actual discomforts, as, without positive bodily suffering, could be accumulated within so small a space. Our dinner—for our meals alone varied the scene—consisted of cold roasted partridges, brought from Syracuse, to which the sea air, by sharpening our appetites, gave an excellent flavour.

The sea had been nearly calm the whole day, but towards evening some swell was perceptible, which we joyfully hailed as an indication of approaching wind. Two vessels soon afterwards passed near us on their way to Sicily, and excited our envy by having all their sails set. Before they were out of sight, however, the wind deserted them, and gradually veering round, became favourable to us. Still later, it began to blow harder, and the swell, consequently, to

increase. In the course of the night the wind and swell became so violent, as to produce great inconvenience on board so small and so crowded a vessel. After two in the morning, sleep utterly forsook my miserable place of refuge; while a paroxysm of sea sickness, and the necessity of constant attention to avoid being crushed by the packages that the rolling of the ship continually threw from one side of the little cabin to the other, made me wish most heartily for day-light. At length it came, and with it the cheering sight of Malta at no great distance. During this brisk gale I observed that the sky was invariably clear, and the moon and stars always visible.

CHAPTER II.

Arrival at Malta—La Pieta—Beautiful villa called Sa Maison—Amusing rocking-scene—Singular fungus found at Gozo—Garden at St. Antonio—Japan medlar—Highland regiment—Characteristic anecdote of one of the privates—Lady Georgiana Wolff—General appearance of Malta—Valetta—The Maltese—Beverley's Hotel—Embarkation for Alexandria.

We landed about ten o'clock on Sunday, May 6th, and, to our great surprise, experienced no unnecessary delay at the health-office, where we had only to answer to our names as they were called, and our baggage was disembarked with as little difficulty. After mounting a high flight of steps, and then ascending a long and steep

street, we gained the centre of the town of Valetta; but not finding the accommodations at the Clarence Hotel very satisfactory we proceeded to Beverley's, which had really the air of a handsome private residence. The aspect of Malta from the sea is parched and sterile, but the clean, well-built town of Valetta has something about it of English neatness and comfort.

We walked the next morning round the fortifications, of prodigious extent, and apparently impregnable strength, with considerable portions hewn out of the solid rock. The whole of the indented coast visible from Valetta is romantic and beautiful—the size of the "Great Harbour" corresponds with its name; and a fine suburb beyond adds to its beauty. Another harbour, on the opposite side of the town, formed by a deep inlet of the sea, is appropriated exclusively to vessels in quarantine; and on a small contiguous island, are situated the lazaretto, a fort, and other public establishments. Here groups of vessels of different nations at anchor, and nu-

merous boats, many of them with yellow flags, continually crossing from one side to the other, make the Quarantine Harbour an interesting and lively scene. At its farthest extremity, beyond the fortified boundary, is situated another pretty suburb, called La Pietà. Here I found Doctor* and Miss Leach, agreeably established in a pleasant house;—the doctor surrounded, as usual, by hecatombs of insects immolated at the shrine of science—for his attention is now exclusively directed to entomology; and his sister,—who has been fortunate in obtaining many articles of curiously-inlaid furniture, of the time of the ancient knights,—in the midst of piles of books and implements of writing. Our gratification was mutual at this unlooked-for meeting, and I had the satisfaction of hearing that they found Malta a pleasant temporary residence.

* Author of "Catalogue of Indigenous Mammalia and Birds, in the Brit. Mus." 1816; and of many and important miscellaneous communications in various departments of natural history.

The doctor showed me an interesting specimen of fungus sent him from the Island of Gozo, a short distance from Malta, by Mr. Frere, and believed to be found only on that spot. In shape and size it resembles the head of a large English bulrush, has a slender stalk, is about an inch in length, of a dark colour, with a smooth fleshy surface, and was formerly used in medicine; but like other groundless fancies, this once popular remedy has lost its reputation. It is said to spring immediately from the surface of the rock, and at present to be rarely found, although a particular district of the island was once celebrated for the quantity it produced.

I visited afterwards a villa, called Sa Maison, belonging to the government, which, with its surrounding gardens of luxuriant tropical plants, is one of the loveliest fairy scenes I ever beheld. On crossing the Quarantine Harbour, I landed at the base of an enormous wall, which bounds on that side the line of fortification. Against this a temporary wooden staircase is erected,

and a guard stationed, to whom the key of this species of sally-port is entrusted. From the narrow shore, that here forms the landing-place, no part of the domain above is visible; but a trellised gallery, and a projecting roof, on the summit of the gigantic wall, indicate the site of a conspicuously-placed dwelling. On ascending the staircase, a small door opens into a succession of inclosed gardens. The house, of great length, and of one story only, shaded with verandas and creeping plants, is built on the top of the fortification overlooking the harbour. The gardens, occupying a recess between the first and second lines of outworks, are laid out in shady walks, and luxuriant borders, where the brilliant tints of oleanders, roses, and acacias, mingled with many rare and beautiful plants, are in fine contrast with the wreaths of ivy that cover the projecting walls of an overhanging bastion.

The simple but tasteful arrangement of the house—the long corridor, extending to its whole length, judiciously converted into a music-

room, and affording separate entrances to the different apartments—give to the whole something of an oriental aspect, united with an air of elegance and comfort quite in character with its cultivated inmates.

In Malta, I had remarked large arm-chairs, furnished with rockers, in two different drawing-rooms, and one, also, in a shop that I casually entered, which led me to inquire, if the use of such chairs, confined to the nursery in England, was common here. To my great surprise, I was informed, that the custom of using rocking chairs had been imported from America; and a lady, to whom the adventure occurred, greatly entertained me by relating the effect produced on herself and her daughters by the first sight of a family rocking scene.

This lady, soon after her arrival, had occasion to return a visit to an American family, recently settled here. The party visited consisted of a father, mother, and three grown-up young people, all somewhat of a tall, spare

make, with that sort of primitive mien, which seems to characterise the inhabitants of some of the states. The visitors took their places on a sofa in the drawing-room, and the family arranged themselves opposite, according to their seniority, in arm chairs. When the first civilities had passed, and conversation had begun to flag, the lady of the house, whose appearance and cap were alike somewhat starched, proceeded with much composure to rock herself in her chair. The young people,—their civil speeches concluded,—with an easy unconcern, one by one, followed their mother's example. At length the father, who had hitherto borne the principal burden of conversation, seemed unconsciously to fall into the same movement. Thus seated, in rather an awful semicircle, and all gently indulging in the same soothing exercise, the impression upon the strangers was quite astounding. The lady, who had hardly recovered from the effects of her voyage, began to grow dizzy, and to think with dismay of what she had

suffered on board; while her young companions, highly entertained with so novel a scene, had great difficulty to restrain their mirth. They gladly made their visit as short as was consistent with the customary forms, heartily rejoiced to make their escape without disturbing the gravity of the party by an involuntary laugh.

We went on a subsequent day to St. Antonio, about three or four miles from the town, to see the garden, which belongs to the governor's country residence. It is of considerable extent, and laid out in the Italian style, with paved walks, bordered, and sometimes covered with vines running over trellises, and here and there circular reservoirs of water, with a magnificent fountain, at the farthest extremity. The walks are elevated like terraces, and the intervening compartments thickly planted with vines, orange, and other fruit-trees. Here we saw the tree which bears the Japan medlar.* Although of recent introduction, it already flou-

* The Mespilus Japonica, or Loquat.

rishes, as if it were a native of the soil, producing a subacid fruit, the size of a plum, some species of which it greatly resembles in its yellow colour and oval form, and as it ripens early, is become an acceptable addition to the table.

We made this expedition in a calash, the usual vehicle of the country, which consists of a chariot body placed upon two wheels, and drawn by one horse, the driver running by the side with a long whip, holding the reins in his hand. The whole is of clumsy construction, and to be hired in every street; but although convenient for short distances in an uneven country, its unwieldy shape and uneasy movements seem capable of being improved.

We were present one morning at the muster of the Highland regiment, now on this station. The dress of these men, who have been principally raised among "the kilted clans," produced, as might be expected, much sensation on their first arrival; and even yet, when the guard is changed, or the regiment inspected, public cu-

riosity seems by no means exhausted. The privates in this regiment are a fine-looking set of men, and, when seen in a body, have an imposing, martial air. But this is somewhat diminished on closer scrutiny; for their cumbrous uniform and heavy accoutrements, unsuitable to the climate, are calculated, and especially the dress of the officers, to convey the impression, that the picturesque has been more studied than the convenient and useful.

The Highlander, wherever he serves, still maintains his ancient national characteristics. Here, as elsewhere, he is distinguished by a lofty independent bearing, that almost amounts in appearance, but in appearance only, to an insolent insubordination; and he not unfrequently exhibits a somewhat arrogant assumption of knowing exactly his duty, and a dogged determination not to overstep it a single inch.

This has recently been exemplified in a ludicrous occurrence that took place here. A medical officer, not very popular in the regiment, ob-

served one day, on quitting the military hospital, that a Highlander on duty, did not give him the customary salute. The doctor stood still, looking fiercely at the sentinel, as well to remind him of his neglect, as to afford him an opportunity of repairing his remissness. "What for d'ye look at me?" said Sandy, with an oblique toss of the head, and a sarcastic wrinkling of the upper lip and nose. "You don't know me, perhaps," replied the outraged Esculapian, "or don't know your duty." "Know ye!" said Sandy, with a look of ineffable disdain;—"I know ye weel enou', and know my duty too,—and that is to salute the *uniform* of the service; but if folk choose to come here without the regulation cap,* they need no' look for the compliment fro' the like o' me." The poor doctor now remembered his inadvertence in not being furnished with the proper head gear, and muttered something indistinctly

* In this warm climate officers frequently indulge in the luxury of straw hats and white jackets.

as he turned away; but whether he praised his preceptor's sagacious assurance, or threatened reprisals should the sturdy hero ever fall professionally into his hands, is one of the "Historic Doubts" that Horace Walpole himself could not have solved.

During my stay, I had the pleasure of being introduced to Lady Georgiana Wolff, whose delightful residence is situated on the margin of the Quarantine Harbour. Her indefatigable husband is now on a journey through Persia to India, in quest, it is said, of the "lost tribes of Israel." He is universally represented, by those who know him, as a man of powerful intellect, of fearless enthusiasm, and of unconquerable energy, sincere in his intentions, and disinterested in his proceedings. I saw the copy of a characteristic letter lately received from him, dated Tabreez, in Persia. His great aptitude for acquiring and speaking languages fits him most admirably for the missionary course he has adopted; and as his travelling expenses are

small, and defrayed by the contributions of friends, he might easily make his services available in collecting much curious information respecting distant countries and remote people, of whom very little is known. I found Lady Georgiana agreeable in manner, intelligent in conversation, and in both perfectly free from the slightest tinge of enthusiasm. She kindly favoured me with some useful hints for travelling in the East, answered promptly all my inquiries, spoke of her residence at Jerusalem as highly gratifying and satisfactory, and gave me an introduction to a Jewish Rabbi, who had been invariably civil and attentive to her during her stay.

The general appearance of Malta is that of a white, sterile rock, giving an impression of arid barrenness by no means confirmed on closer inspection. Heavy rains are here so frequent, that the soil, thinly spread upon an irregular surface, would, without precaution, be washed into the valleys. The cultivated declivities are therefore divided by low stone fences;

and these small inclosures are usually bordered with dwarf mulberry and fig trees, and luxuriant clusters of the prickly pear. The stone, soft and porous, is speedily decomposed, and thus the walls assume a crumbling, ruinous appearance, so that near Valetta one might easily imagine, from a superficial inspection, that cultivation had begun to invade the area of an ancient overthrown city. These fields, formed into small terraces, are very productive; and the distant valleys are said to be still more fertile. The north-west wind that frequently prevails here is unfavourable to the growth of trees, which, consequently, only flourish when sheltered from its influence; and a lofty hedge of geraniums, thus exposed, may be seen with its foliage on one side turned quite black, while on the other it still retains its original vigour and beauty.

Valetta, situated on a hill, sloping on each side towards the sea, is well built, and for the most part on a regular plan. The prin-

cipal streets run parallel to each other; and although the houses are without architectural beauty, yet regular white fronts give them a pleasing effect.

A distinguishing feature of the domestic buildings is a projecting inclosed balcony, usually erected before the front windows of each room, and often extending even beyond their breadth; thus forming a cool and separate species of gallery at the end of the apartment. The windows of this balcony are shaded on the outside by well-constructed wooden blinds, painted green, which gives a pleasing variety to the houses, as seen from the street. The Italian custom of making each story a distinct habitation has not been adopted here. With the exception of shops, which are unconnected with the residences above them, each family occupies a separate house; and those of the upper classes, thanks to the former opulence of the knights, are spacious and handsome. The town is well supplied with water, some of which is

preserved in tanks, and a considerable stream is conveyed also by an aqueduct from the neighbouring hills.

The Maltese seem a lively, sagacious people, but have been greatly impoverished by the loss of the extensive and profitable commerce they enjoyed during the war, when Malta was the emporium of the Mediterranean. They are at least equal to their Italian neighbours in their willingness to impose upon strangers; although in that respect the English shopkeepers, both here and elsewhere, set them a seductive example. All the shops are, of course, full of English goods, and the native venders usually know as much of the language as their business requires.

In activity and noise, the commercial parts of Valetta vie with those of Naples. When the sun is not too powerful, a large portion of the population may be seen in the streets; at other times they collect in the shade, where many of the smaller trades are carried on in the open air; and they assemble in large numbers

to witness the changing of the guard, or any other public ceremonial—a proof that their time is of no great value. They exalt their dissonant voices to the highest pitch, as well in conversation with each other, as in crying the various articles they vend in the streets; and although the poor are better clothed here than at Naples, the proportion of beggars is equally great, nor in persevering importunity do they yield the palm to those of any other country.

The paraphernalia of superstition, saints, madonnas, churches, and priests, every where abound; and the chiming and tolling of bells is so incessant as to become a real nuisance. Compared with the churches of Italy, those of Malta are by no means remarkable. That of St. John contains many splendid tombs of the grand masters of the order. The nave is hung with ancient tapestry, and the side chapels are ornamented with a kind of arabesque, curiously carved in stone, and afterwards gilt.

The men, as if attached to some vestige of

an ancient costume, add to the usual European jacket and trowsers a long red sash, wound many times round the waist. They wear, likewise, either a hat of somewhat fantastic shape, or a red cap, that terminates behind in a long point; and thus their whole appearance is peculiar and picturesque. The dress of the women is still more remarkable, but throws a sombre air over the churches and streets: it consists of a black silk skirt with white or coloured sleeves, while over the head is thrown a black mantilla, or scarf, likewise of silk, plaited in the centre into a sort of hood, with the two ends meeting before and nearly touching the ground. These peculiarities in the costumes of both sexes, as well as that of their language, which is a corrupt dialect of Arabic, clearly indicate an oriental origin. The populace, and indeed every thing Maltese, is by the colonists jocularly denominated "*Smyche*," a word in constant use among the common people, and equivalent to the vulgar exclamation, "I say!"

We found Beverley's Hotel a comfortable, quiet, well-appointed house. Though very large, there were few occupants but ourselves during our stay. The price of the apartments we did not think extravagant; but the general charges of the house were equal to those of a similar London establishment. As few servants were kept, the waiting was not quite satisfactory, and the dinners, inveterately English, consisted of highly-seasoned soups, huge joints of boiled and roast meat, half-boiled vegetables, and half-sweetened pastry, a regimen by no means suited to a hot climate.

Malta has a theatre, which I did not visit; two good libraries, and the official and other residents are kind and hospitable; yet it offers so little variety in its resources, that an idle stranger generally leaves it without regret.

After a detention of eleven days, we obtained a passage to Alexandria, in the Ovington, Captain Bell, the only vessel bound for that port, paying forty dollars for the accommodation of

ourselves and two servants,* and three dollars a day for our united board.

* My travelling companion engaged, at Malta, a European servant, who had previously been in Egypt, and spoke a little Arabic; but found it necessary, at Alexandria, to dismiss him for intemperance.

CHAPTER III.

Embark for Alexandria--Unsafe cargo—Inconvenient accommodation, and irksome monotony, incident to sea voyages — Hazardous exposure — Consequent suffering—Appearance of Candia—Wearisome calm —Hypochondriacal reflections—Storm—Subsequent serenity—Remarkable rocks on the coast of Lybia—Port of Alexandria supposed to be blockaded—Pilot and health officers—Impediment to landing—Picturesque view on shore—Alexandria—Locanda delle Tre Ancore.

At six in the morning, May 17th, we received a summons to be on board at eight, which there seemed no difficulty in complying with, as the greater part of our baggage had been embarked the previous night. But no one is ever ready to begin a voyage when the moment of departure

arrives; and "something more to buy," haunted us like a ghost, driving us from one part of the town to another, until about half-past nine we found ourselves at the port. Here, however, another delay awaited us, and "something more" was still wanted, that we had left at the hotel, and for which, of course, we were obliged to send. The Ovington, in the mean time, had got under weigh, and was two miles from the shore; but we reached her about ten o'clock, having added a milch goat to our suite, in the anticipation of increasing our comfort during the voyage.

In the course of the day, a gentle but favourable wind, carried us gradually forward; and the next morning Malta was no longer in sight.

The Ovington had performed quarantine at Valetta, on account of the cholera in England; and some addition had likewise been made to her original cargo, destined for Alexandria: thus, we found our accommodation somewhat limited, and the cabin and its appurtenances damp and

dirty. Our servants were therefore set to work with soap, water, and brushes; and, in the course of the day, so far improved its appearance, as to make our situation at least bearable.

May 18th.—The wind to-day light and variable. Our cargo consists of iron tanks, mortars, shells, cannon-balls, and such like baubles, for the favourite game of the Pasha of Egypt; and these, stored in the hold, produce such a dead weight, that with a light wind we make little way.

Sunday, May 20th.—A dead calm the whole day.—No prayers, or other indications of Sunday, save that, in the morning, the sailors washed their linen, and after dinner lay unemployed on the deck. I then observed, with surprise, a young man, an apprentice to the owners, but in no respect distinguishable from a common sailor, busily employed in writing. This excited my curiosity, and I soon discovered that he was copying poems into his scrap-book! The schoolmaster, then, is indeed abroad, and even

here his progress is perceptible. To encourage this laudable disposition, in which, perhaps, I sympathized the more feelingly from having once been an industrious copier myself, with a genuine "esprit de corps," I willingly supplied him with new subjects for transcription.

So wearisome, however, is this motionless calm —this monotonous prospect of water and sky— this heavy lagging of time, as if it were about to stand still, that even books deny their accustomed solace; and when tired of reading, the ennui of "nothing to do" is still less supportable. But the most trifling incident will often give a salutary movement to this listless state of mental languor. A diminutive yellow bird that hovered about the vessel the whole of yesterday, has been so tamed by hunger, as to be now fearlessly pursuing flies on every part of the deck, while I keep watch upon a prowling cat, to insure, at least for the present, the safety of the little stranger.

May 21st.—At last we have wind, but,

unluckily, against us, and accompanied by a nauseating swell, just sufficient to destroy "the balance of comfort," and to excite apprehension of actual sea-sickness.

The only notable occurrence to-day has been the "serving out of ropes-end" to the cabin-boy,—a duty performed by the captain himself, a rough and bluff seaman, but little burdened with fastidious delicacies.

May 22nd.—The wind still contrary, and neither the motion of the ship, nor our consequent qualmishness, at all diminished. The dimensions of our cabin are about twelve feet by six, with a sleeping-place on each side, too short for a full-sized man. Mine, in addition, having been previously occupied by the mate, and probably used as a store, is infested with a combination of unsavoury odours, such as might be supposed to arise from "the candles' ends and cheeseparings" of a chandler's shop. I decided, therefore, on Saturday night, to have my own bedstead put up in the cabin, and removed every morning. For two

nights this answered very well; but when at length the rolling of the vessel threatened to throw me by force on the floor, I very contentedly had my mattress placed there, and found it more commodious, as well as more secure.

May 23rd.—The wind, at last, has fallen, and the swell is fast subsiding.—In the evening two sea swallows alighted on deck, so much exhausted that they quietly allowed themselves to be secured. About seven o'clock a steady breeze sprung up, which carried us rapidly forward all night, and continued favourable the next day.

In consequence of our cabin being small and close, I submitted, but neither very wisely nor very willingly, to the hazard of sleeping, during the night, with the sky-light raised; and was thus exposed to the damp air of the sea, which every morning may be seen condensed on the deck, as if it had already been washed down. The effects of this imprudence now begin to show themselves in severe wandering rheumatic pains.

Friday, May 25th.—We have still a favouring gale; but, alas! what satisfaction can that, or any other prosperous circumstance, afford under the pressure of perpetual suffering! I awoke this morning with head-ache, fever, and irregular muscular pains. With much difficulty I crawled on deck during the time that breakfast was served. My bed, as soon as possible, was again thrown on the cabin floor, which I only quitted for a few minutes to bleed the mate, who had lain by for two days much less indisposed than myself. Our narrow space, however, compelled me once more to seek the deck while dinner was going forward below; but the first moment the cabin was again vacant, I returned to my old place on the floor, where I passed the night in a state of wretchedness and suffering.

May 26th.—The wind, though still fair, is much abated, and as the Island of Candia was visible at sunrise, I gladly crept on deck to enjoy the *sight* of land. We coasted slowly

along the southern side of the island, within seven or eight miles of the shore, which presented only a lofty ridge of serrated elevations, with streaks of snow on some of the highest points. The coast looked rocky and repulsive, and the sides of the mountains exhibited only naked cliffs, sometimes varied with clumps and belts of trees. Even with a telescope, one house only, and no other sign of inhabitants or cultivation, could be perceived. We passed between Candia and the islands of Gozo and Antigozo, and remarked an insulated rock rising out of the sea, apparently not more than two miles from the shore.

The unavoidable exposure to air on deck, produced, in the after part of the day, a return of suffering that again laid me prostrate on the floor. The complicated miseries of an illness at sea, can only be estimated by those who have unfortunately experienced them. Every portion of space on board is necessarily appropriated to its special use; and this is so nicely calculated,

that the wretched sufferer is in every body's way, and thus feels acutely the embarrassment of his involuntary helplessness. The imprisoned inmates of a loaded vessel, ill at ease, perhaps, themselves, and with few external objects to occupy their attention, seem to allow a portion of the ordinary charities of human nature to become dormant.—Scarcely a word or look of sympathy is bestowed upon the invalid; "few and far between" are the inquiries how he fares; and it seems as if the customary restraints of civilized society alone saved him from being trampled upon by every passing foot, or thrown overboard, like any other nuisance.

In the evening, the course of the vessel was altered, her head being placed straight for Alexandria, and on the following day we had little wind.

May 28th.—Passed a dreary night of wearisome restlessness rather than actual suffering. A calm prevailed during the whole day, but I was only able to mount the deck once, and that

with much painful exertion. I now quite understand the feeling that impels our wretched fowls in the hencoop, to harass, and drive from their food, such of their companions as droop and hang the wing. Rendered furious by the irksomeness of confinement, in a space that hardly allows them to move, their animosity is directed against those deprived, by debility, of the power of self-defence. One of these miserable victims let out to-day upon deck, as a relief from incessant persecution, instantly flew into the sea, as if resolutely bent upon self-destruction. A boat was immediately lowered, our live stock not being abundant; but its apparent design had succeeded so well, that before it could be taken up, its sufferings had come to a close.

May 30th.—The boisterous, varying wind of yesterday gradually and steadily increased towards night, when it became a complete hurricane. The turbulent agitation of the sea, and the fearful rocking of the vessel, greatly augmented by the nature of her cargo, once more effectually ba-

nished sleep; nor was it until two o'clock in the afternoon that she was sufficiently steady to allow either of us to quit our beds. The wind had then become calm, although a tremendous sea was still rolling. About four in the afternoon we came within sight of the desert and dangerous coast of Lybia. Our captain, who had never before made this voyage, appeared not to have chosen the best course, for this perilous shore ought never to be approached until almost within sight of Alexandria, and we are still far from that port.

In the evening I went early, and greatly exhausted, to bed, and slept till half-past eleven, when the wind, that had veered round, and afterwards returned to its old point, again freshened, and the sea became so rough, that I was suddenly awakened by the rolling and pitching of the ship. But although the wind continued to rage, we had, at length, the satisfaction of hearing that it had taken a more favourable direction, and, consequently, whatever dis-

comfort we might experience, we were at least "going our course." This sudden and favourable change, however, soon produced a broken cross sea, through which our heavily-charged vessel made her way with laborious effort and terrific movement.

By three o'clock the next morning, it blew with such increased fury, and the agitation of the sea was so appalling, that we seemed rather to be crossing the Bay of Biscay, than approaching the coast of Egypt. At every moment enormous waves broke over the vessel, the weather-boards were soon carried away, and every moveable was forcibly driven from its place. The creaking of the ship's timbers, the roaring of the wind among the sails and cordage, and the beating of the sea against her sides, all united in one fearful and never-ceasing uproar. Now and then a huge wave broke directly against her head, when she reeled, seemed for a moment stopped in her course, and then gave three or four tremendous rolls, each producing a terrific noise,

as if the side of the ship had been stove in,—for the upper tier of cannon-balls, dislodged by this movement, were thrown against the tanks with frightful vibration, and then struck the side of the vessel with such force as to excite apprehension lest she would ere long sustain some serious injury.

I had experienced so much difficulty in getting in and out of my berth, that my mattress was again laid on the floor,—and even there, I could hardly keep my place. More than once I was obliged to call for help to save me from being overwhelmed by our few articles of furniture, which kept pace in the cabin with the movements of the balls in the hold; and twice before daylight, the sea burst in through the cabin-windows, in spite of the carpenter's endeavours to secure them, deluging clothes, books, and bed, and thus increasing the terrors, and adding to the miseries, of my disabled state. Hour after hour I listened to the wild roaring of the storm, varied only by the shouts and footsteps of the sailors

over head,—uncheered by the sound of a friendly voice.

By ten o'clock, when I went upon deck, the violence of the gale had abated, and the sea was subsiding, although the waves were still of tremendous magnitude. At noon all was calm; the wind died away, the sea became smooth, the sun burst brilliantly forth, and our recent perils were no longer remembered. The evening was beautiful; and having eaten little for three days, and slept less for as many nights, food and repose were doubly grateful.

Two serene days carried us gently forward, at no great distance from the low and sterile sands of the Lybian coast, in the midst of which we could not fail to observe three small but conspicuous rocks.

On Sunday, June 3rd, the wind was light and contrary. Early in the morning I observed that we were approaching nearer than usual to the shore, and on heaving the lead it was found that we had only seven fathom water. This produced

much anxious trepidation; the ship was put about with all speed, and the land afterwards kept at a safer distance. To our great dismay, it was now discovered that the current must have carried us insensibly, but very considerably, backward during the night, for we again passed the three rocks that yesterday had been so particularly remarked.

In the course of our voyage I had sometimes hoped to see the high land of the Cyrenaica, and, at first, conjectured that the coast of Africa might be the sands of the Syrtis. I soon found, however, that we were more to the eastward than I had imagined; and that the flat country, so constantly before us, was really the desert in which the greater oasis is situated. The sand-hills, however, which every where line the coast, effectually impede any view into the interior from the deck of a ship. The current here, as we proved by twice passing the same cluster of rocks, sets strongly to the west, and this was, probably, the cause of the perilous

navigation so much dreaded by the ancients on the coast of Africa.—I am sure that if the Gardens of the Hesperides were situated in these regions, no dragon, except the desert, would have been necessary to preserve them from depredation.

We finished to-day, at dinner, the last of our poultry, and sentence of death was passed upon a small pig, the survivor of a couple taken in at Malta. The wind increased after sunset, and we had just rocking enough to remind us of the perils from which we had so lately escaped, and to make us still more apprehensive of the same danger in our present less favourable situation.

June 4th.—At daybreak we saw a distant sail. We have passed only two others since we left Malta, but neither of these advanced within speaking distance. From the time we lost sight of Candia, the only living thing we have seen beyond the boundaries of our own "wooden walls," has been a kite or falcon, which the sailors observed yesterday among the rigging,

and which was shot to-day, and fell into the sea. About one o'clock a fine breeze sprung up, which carried us cheerily forward. In the afternoon we hailed the vessel we had passed in the morning, a Greek brig, bound to Alexandria. In the evening, to our inexpressible delight, we saw the Arab's tower, a land-mark, not more than twenty miles west of our long-wished-for port.

The following night was so calm that we made little way. At daybreak the next morning, our captain informed us, with great perplexity, that there were seven strange sail a-head. He had always entertained an apprehension of finding the port of Alexandria blockaded by a Turkish fleet; and now believing that we were within sight of that squadron, he began seriously to fear that his vessel might be detained on account of her cargo of warlike stores.

In the course of the morning nine ships of war were distinctly visible, and two of them of considerable size. We now expected, with some

anxiety, from time to time, a summons to bring to; and with so little wind, there was no chance of escape. In this state of harassing uncertainty we remained, until, being at length sure that we must have been observed by the fleet, and having received no intimation of impediment, our fears were dissipated; although we were still unable to conjecture to what nation the vessels belonged, or what could be their object. The Arab's tower, and our Greek companion of yesterday, continued in sight during the whole day; but it was not until evening that a light and favourable breeze sprung up.

At break of day, on Wednesday, June 6th, we perceived, with great satisfaction, the harbour of Alexandria, well furnished with shipping, and had a distinct view of a fleet of ten sail standing out to sea. There were also three English merchantmen leaving the port. The first that approached us was bound to Smyrna; and we learnt from her captain, that the fleet belonged to the pasha of Egypt, and was manœuvring

outside the port, expecting ere long to encounter that of the sultan, which was said to have reached the Dardanelles. The captain of another vessel, on her way also to Smyrna, soon afterwards came on board. He announced to us that Ibrahim Pasha had at length taken Acre by assault, and that public illuminations and rejoicings, for three days, had celebrated that event in Alexandria. He described, also, the favourable reception that Mohammed Ali had given to its captive chief, Abdallah Pasha.

We were soon enabled again to make progress, and about eleven o'clock a pilot advanced to meet us. This jolly-looking Mussulman unexpectedly refused our solicitations to come on board, but two of his companions got into one of our boats, to direct our course through the shallow and intricate entrance to the port of Alexandria. A short time before coming to anchor, the harbour-master and the health-officers arrived;—the former a fine old fellow, sitting upon a carpet in his boat, shading himself with

a tattered cotton umbrella; and his companions a set of well-grown, dark-complexioned men. They attempted to speak Italian and French, but evidently understood nothing that was said to them in either of these languages. After taking possession of the ship's papers, and putting a miserable, meagre-looking *guardiano* on board, they rowed away, and we then dropped anchor near the Madagascar frigate, commanded by Captain Lyons, who soon came alongside, as well as many other captains of trading vessels, to inquire for news and seek for letters.

The Ovington having performed her full quarantine at Malta, we, of course, expected immediate pratique; but, to our great disappointment, were informed that we should have, at least, an additional five days imposed upon us here. In this dilemma, which, after such a voyage as ours, seemed to be the crowning misery, application was made to Captain Lyons, who kindly undertook to represent the circumstances personally to the pasha, and thus obtain for us

immediate permission to land. After the bustle of casting anchor, and of replying to inquiries for intelligence,—and when we had hoped that our tedious imprisonment of twenty days, with the superadded danger of drowning, was at an end, dreary, indeed, was the anticipation of spending five more days on board, within sight of the very port we had so long, and so ardently, wished to reach.

To me, however, every thing here was new and attractive. The low, craggy beach, to the right, crowned with a group of windmills, succeeded by ranges of storehouses, and a picturesque, but neglected, summer-pavilion of the pasha's,—with bales of goods and piles of timber occupying the foreground,—produced an interesting picture. Close to these was the termination of the new canal, and a little beyond were some massive, fortified walls, over which was seen the summit of a slender minaret. Still farther, a group of shipping varied the scene, with Pompey's Pillar conspicuously tower-

ing above their masts. Next we had the principal landing-place of the port, lined with small craft, behind which is the custom-house; while more to the left is seen the arsenal, and near it a ship-of-war on the stocks, said to be pierced for a hundred and thirty guns; and at the farthest extremity of this line of coast, a cluster of tasteless buildings, full of windows, like an overgrown English manufactory, is the usual residence of the omnipotent pasha, and his numerous suite.

We were surrounded by at least two hundred vessels of various forms and dimensions, belonging to different nations. Among them were many of the pasha's sloops of war, carrying from twelve to eighteen guns, and his larger vessels exhibited a formidable array outside the port. Beside us, at anchor, was a fine English frigate; —many large merchantmen, belonging to different European states;—native and other oriental small craft in abundance, with their curiously-shaped rigging;—many trim-built Greek

vessels, of admirable construction; and some clumsy Syrian *germs*, which regularly navigate that dangerous coast.

We were so close to the shore, near the windmills, that I spent great part of the afternoon in surveying through a telescope the various novel objects that here presented themselves. The Arabs, pursuing their employments on the beach;—the soldiers, strangely dressed, near them, on guard;—the numerous donkey riders, singularly habited, passing along a neighbouring road, all powerfully excited my curiosity. Women, enveloped in large blue mantles, that left only their eyes visible, some with earthen jars on their heads, and others with a child astride on one shoulder;—loaded camels issuing from a deep road, waving their slender necks, and filing slowly along, like a theatrical procession;—and at sun-set, many individuals approaching solitary spots on the shore, and after making the preparatory ablutions, there performing their devotional exercises, with the nu-

merous prostrations prescribed by their ritual;—this succession of new and striking objects made the time speed imperceptibly away; and thus the day came to a close, and with it all hope of being liberated before the morrow.

On the following morning, June 7th, our baggage being a second time prepared for removal, we received, about eleven o'clock, the official permission to land, technically called pratique. We took, at the same time, our first and most impressive Arabic lesson, for the word *backsheesh*, (a gratuity,) accompanied by a significant gesture, was so often and emphatically repeated by our official liberator, that we at once concluded it to be the corner-stone of the language; and the eagerness with which he seized a piece of money thus extorted, afforded a convincing proof that rapacity is not confined to one quarter of the globe.

We now quitted the vessel, and soon fixed ourselves at the Locanda delle Tre Ancore, (the

Three Anchors,) a passable inn, kept by an Italian, and, as we understood, the best of the only *two** that this large commercial city possesses. There is, indeed, a small English establishment, kept by Mrs. Hume, on the plan of a boarding-house; but this is an inconvenient arrangement for travellers, whose desultory movements seldom allow them to conform to the fixed and early hours of eating usually adopted.

We had no reason to be dissatisfied with our accommodation. My companion occupied a large room on the second floor, the sides of which were furnished with wide divans, together with a few chairs, a couple of tables, and a bed. Two separate glass-doors at the end of the room opened into a large balcony which overlooked the street. This was converted by close lattice-work into a sort of cage, and

* A third has since been established on a more extensive scale, by an innkeeper from Leghorn.

as some portions of it opened on each side, a view was obtained of what passed below. My apartment, still higher, was less spacious, but similarly furnished, and looked into a small court.

CHAPTER IV.

Okellas and bazaars of Alexandria—Singular groups in the streets—Population—Cleopatra's Needles—Moslem fête—Female costume—Pompey's Pillar—The new canal—Lake Mareotis—Tasteful decorations observed at a ball—Turkish bath—Almès—Violin with one string—Egyptian fogs.

The next day, on sallying forth to see Alexandria, we were much disappointed. That part of it, occupied by the native inhabitants, consists almost entirely of narrow lanes, without pavement, continually turning off at right angles. The houses present an entrance door, and a blank wall to the street, with now and then a huge projecting window above, so closely

latticed, and its apertures so diminutive, that the inmates would seem to be immured in a gloomy prison. The Frank quarter, wider, and with a sort of would-be European air, has many new buildings near it, advancing upon a better plan.

The principal Frank merchants reside in a large species of house called an Okella, of which there are several. These consist each of a huge, ugly fabric of two stories, raised round a square court, which is usually littered with empty casks, packing-cases, and similar lumber. A gallery surrounds each story, giving access to the different dwellings into which it is divided. There is generally but one entrance below, and when closed the Okella is thus converted into a kind of fortress; an advantage, which when the persons and property of Europeans were less secure in the east than at present, no doubt gave rise to this mode of building.

The brilliant illusions connected in Europe with the name of "Bazaar," are quickly dissi-

pated by the sight of those of Alexandria. More than half the town is occupied by these narrow, dark, unpaved alleys, lined on each side with small, ill-furnished shops. A mud-platform runs along each side of the bazaar, and upon this the handy-craft trades are usually carried on. A mat or carpet is laid on the floor of the small square enclosure, open in front, called by courtesy a shop; where the proprietor, sitting in a comfortless, constrained, cross-legged position, is able to reach any of his wares that may be required. A few loose planks, ill put together, often form a shed in front, which is sometimes converted into an awning that reaches to the opposite shop by old strips of canvas, tattered mats, and other refuse.

Of goods, neither the quantity nor variety exposed for sale is considerable; and as the different trades have each, for the most part, their separate bazaar, the purchase of a few trifling articles inflicts on a stranger both trouble and loss of time. These inconvenient

alleys are usually crowded with people, many of whom look so squalid and dirty, that one feels a repugnance even to touch them in passing. In some of the bazaars a sort of auction seems daily going forward, conducted by a set of men, who walk up and down, exposing for examination and sale, sundry articles of merchandise, and continually vociferating either the price they require, or that which has been offered.

Our hotel was situated in the midst of the Frank quarter, and I felt as if I should never be tired of the new and perpetually changing scene which our projecting cage always presented. The constant succession of passengers was made up of a motley assemblage of Arabs, Turks, Greeks, and Franks, each in their peculiar costume. Military officers frequently passed on horseback, in richly embroidered uniforms, with an ornament on each breast, either simply of wrought silver, or composed of diamonds, according to their grade; always with one or two

"running footmen" in long blue cotton vests, and white turbans, preceding their horses, and often followed by two others, whose dresses had a more military cast. Sometimes groups of soldiers lounged by, shabbily habited in dingy red jackets and trowsers, with a cap of the same colour;—many of them tall, well-grown men, of every variety of complexion, ill-dressed, bare legged, and almost shoeless. Then came strings of camels, carrying skins of water, loads of merchandise, and indeed every thing that requires transport, for wheeled carriages are never used for such purposes here. People of all classes and countries passed by mounted on donkeys, which supply the place of hackney-coaches, together with Arab women carrying on their heads water jars, or large shallow baskets, containing bread, and other articles, for sale. These are dressed only in a long and full blue cotton garment, with a piece of the same material thrown over the head, one corner of which, held in the mouth, performs the office of a veil, or, more

frequently, their ugliness is concealed by a long blue face cloth, ornamented at the top with coloured beads. They are usually tall and well-formed, but those of the lower class,—who sometimes leave their faces uncovered,—have a frightful blue ornament tattooed beneath the lower lip,—a dirty, olive complexion, and altogether a disgusting, squalid appearance. Now and then women of the better class passed along, shrouded from head to foot in capacious black silk wrappers, while a narrow white veil, reaching from the top of the nose to the feet, by allowing the eyes only to be seen, produced a hideous ghostlike aspect. These portly dames, whose voluminous wrappings, and waddling gait, when on foot, give them the appearance of walking woolsacks, were often mounted astride on donkeys, their feet placed in short stirrups, and their awkward-looking, elevated saddles, as well as the backs of the animals they rode, covered with rich carpets. An attendant held the bridle, and one or two others followed, according to

their rank. Negroes of both sexes were frequently mingled with the crowd, some of them smartly dressed, with gay red turbans, while others looked as if devoted to a life of laborious slavery, or of abject destitution. The scene was now and then diversified by groups of picturesque beggars, often surrounded by numerous children, all nearly in a state of nudity, and many, partially or totally blind;—these moved slowly along, constantly repeating, in a piteous tone, their importunate supplications.

The market of Alexandria is by no means destitute of luxuries. Ordinary provisions are excellent in quality, and figs, apricots, mulberries, and bananas, are in great abundance. In July grapes may be expected, and in autumn large quantities of apples arrive from Cyprus. Ices here, as in other sultry climates, are considered by the Frank inhabitants as articles of necessity. To meet the demand thus created, large cargoes of snow are regularly imported from the mountains of Candia, and every

evening the Italian coffee-houses furnish the requisite supply. The population* of this city,

* The particulars I obtained relative to the statistics of Alexandria, were communicated by an English gentleman, whose means of information were likely to give his conjectures an approximation to truth; but as a more precise statement afterwards appeared in the French newspaper, established by the Pasha at Alexandria, it may not be uninteresting to give the substance of that document.

The population of Alexandria is there stated to amount to between thirty-six and forty thousand. Of these, three thousand are English, Maltese, and Ionians, under English protection.

Three hundred French, forty Germans, thirty Italians, ten Swiss, ten Algerines, and twenty natives of different parts of the Levant, are under French protection.

There are also four hundred Greeks, five hundred natives of Tuscany, two hundred and ninety-six Austrians, one hundred and fifty Neapolitans, seventy Sardinians, and sixty Spaniards, making a total of four thousand eight hundred and seventy-six foreigners.

exclusive of the military and marine, is estimated at from twenty to twenty-five thousand, and of these three thousand are said to be Europeans (Franks).

June 9th.—I walked in the evening to see the obelisks, commonly called Cleopatra's Needles, which are situated at a short distance from the town, on the edge of a sandy plain, near the sea. They are of red granite, and on each side inscribed with a perpendicular line of deeply-cut hieroglyphics. One of them, upwards of sixty feet in height, retains its original position; but the other is prostrate, and nearly covered with sand. Of the former, the characters on the side opposite to the sea are almost obliterated by the decomposition of its surface, and on the two other sides they are also considerably injured. The state of the latter obelisk is not so easily ascertained, as only a small portion of it remains uncovered. One of these monuments was long since presented by the pasha to the British government; but the difficulty and expense of re-

moval are probably the reasons why it has never been taken away. They seem, from their position, to have ornamented the entrance to some important edifice, of which no other vestige exists.

On my way I passed through an open space at the extremity of the town, where a fête was going forward, in honour of a Mohammedan saint. A crowd of people was here assembled, and a large portion of them soldiers. The ground was covered with pastry, fruit, and a few other paltry articles for sale, while a set of Almès were delighting numerous spectators with their extraordinary dances under a tent, where coffee and other refreshments were sold.

June 10th.—I was much interested by seeing, for the first time, a lady, the wife of an English resident, but herself a native of Aleppo, attired in the full costume of her country. Her age was something more than forty, she had a handsome expressive countenance, and though not tall, her rich and full drapery had really an

imposing effect. Her hair, of a light brown, was arranged in large ringlets round her face, while behind, divided into at least twenty small plaits, it reached her waist. It was ornamented in front with natural flowers—those in the centre of her forehead were blue, with a carnation on each side, and the pendulous heads of two double stocks were twined among the ringlets that shaded her face. She wore a turban of purple silk, the whole circumference of which was tastefully decorated with rosettes, and tassels, of small strung pearls, while a large circular ornament of silver, thickly set with diamonds, formed a centre-piece over the crown of her head. A robe of pink striped muslin fitted closely her shape, and over this was worn a full green silk vest, trimmed with embroidery and gold lace,—open before,—and trailing on the ground. This had large hanging sleeves, of nearly equal length, trimmed in the same manner, and a Cashmere shawl, tied before, served as a girdle to her waist. Round

her neck were long strings of pearls and gold chains, and in her bosom a fine antique cameo mounted as a brooch. Her slippers were of yellow satin,—she entered the room raised on a pair of wooden-clogs,* six or eight inches high, with embroidered ties, and prettily inlaid with mother-of-pearl; and these when she took her place on the sofa, where she sat in the oriental manner, were left on the floor. This is the usual mode of dress among the Levantine Christians, but that of the ladies in Turkish hareems is in a totally different style.

June 11th.—I rode this morning, before breakfast, about a mile beyond the town, to see the monument usually called Pompey's Pillar. It stands conspicuously on the summit of a barren eminence, amidst rugged, sandy inequalities, but there being no contiguous object with which to compare it, the effect of its height, is considerably diminished.

This column, including capital and base, must

* These clogs, I believe, are peculier to Syria.

be at least a hundred feet high. The shaft, nine feet in diameter, of dark mottled granite, is well wrought, but somewhat injured towards the bottom, where it terminates in a moulding. It is erected on an ill-constructed, square pedestal of masonry, twelve feet high, which in some places has been clumsily repaired and plastered over, and into one of the corners a mass of red sculptured granite, the fragment of another monument, has been built. Some faint traces of the inscription, so successfully ascertained by Mr. Hamilton, may still be perceived; but it would require at least his sagacity and skill now to decipher it. The capital, a sort of mongrel production, approaching the Corinthian, is meanly executed, and evidently belongs to a low epoch of art; indeed, both that and the pedestal are so decidedly inferior to the shaft, as to leave no doubt of their not having been originally designed for each other. The shaft of this beautiful column may once have formed part of

an early Egyptian edifice; and in later times may have been again raised upon the debris of some previous structure, to which the gradual accumulation of sand had already given height and stability.

About half a mile farther is the termination of the pasha's new canal, called the Mahmoodeea, lately formed to unite Alexandria with the Nile. A previous channel had always existed for the purpose of conveying water to the city, which never had any other supply, and where enormous cisterns preserved it, as they do still, for gradual consumption. A somewhat different line was, however, selected for the new canal, which, navigable for boats of considerable size, now forms an important commercial communication with Cairo. It has totally ruined the trade of Rosetta, but has converted Alexandria into the metropolis of Egypt—the seat of government, and the centre of commerce.

Sterile as these countries appear, water alone is required to produce fertility; hence the

bank of the canal, on the side toward Alexandria, is already clothed with date-groves and gardens. The creaking of the Persian wheel is here incessantly heard, as it sends forth an abundant stream to sustain the verdure of the vines, bananas, orange and fig trees, with which these gardens abound, while clusters of palms, flourishing among the sands, wherever their penetrating roots can obtain moisture, seem designed to refresh, by the graceful waving of feathery branches, the parched surface of the desert.

Immediately beyond is the Lake Mareotis, of great extent, but of inconsiderable depth, and, as far as I know, totally unproductive. The unfortunate necessity which compelled the English, during their contest in this unhappy country, to destroy the mounds, and thus admit the sea into what was previously a fresh-water lake, spread devastation over numerous villages, then fully inhabited, and over much territory at that time under cultivation; nor is the influx of the ocean even

at present entirely excluded from this vast reservoir.

If the country were rich and populous, this evil could be effectually repaired; much productive soil might be recovered; an important reservoir might in time be made again available for agricultural irrigation; and its finny inhabitants administer to the wants of an ill-fed population. But the rulers of this impoverished land live in affluence,—the wretched inhabitants obtain just food enough to support a miserable existence,—a large revenue is raised by arbitrary exactions,—the bastinado enforces payment,—the governors are satisfied, and the governed are compelled sullenly and silently to submit!

In the evening we were present at a ball, given by an English gentleman in the service of the pasha, at a pretty house and garden, a short distance from the town. The rooms were tastefully ornamented, and in a manner calculated to strike forcibly a European eye—for against the various walls, and over the doors, mirrors, &c.,

palm branches were disposed at equal distances, crossing each other; and at every intersection was suspended a bunch of flowers, consisting principally of large double oleanders, so luxuriant that I, at first, mistook them for roses.* The garden was handsomely illuminated, and the band from the Madagascar played quadrilles and waltzes the whole evening. A plentiful supper was served under a trellised colonnade adjoining the garden, the back and ceiling of which were lined with flags, displaying the British colours. There must have been at least a hundred and fifty persons present, of various nations, and in different costumes, including many of the officers of the Madagascar, and those of the Alfred, lately arrived, to replace her, whose varied uniforms, and cheerful vivacity, gave additional brilliancy to the scene. An assemblage more gay and diversified few countries could ex-

* The ancients, perhaps, when speaking of roses, sometimes alluded to the beautiful flowers of the Rhododaphne, or Rose-laurel.

hibit; and it was three in the morning before we mounted the patient animals that were waiting to convey us home.

June 12th.—I took for the second time, a Turkish bath, and found it much more agreeable than on the first occasion. After passing a large room, surrounded by a high stage, where some of the bathers were reposing, and others dressing, or undressing, I was shown into a small apartment, on the floor of which was laid a mattress. After taking off my clothes, and being enveloped in a waist cloth, a large sheet was thrown over me, and a roll of linen wound round my head. On being conducted again to the door, my feet were placed in a pair of wooden-clogs, and passing the public room through which I had entered, I was ushered into another intensely heated. A fountain of hot water here sprung up in the middle of a circular marble platform, on which several persons were lying, going through the various processes of perspiration, friction, or shaving. I was now led into one of

the small adjoining apartments,—a cloth was hung before the entrance to show that it was occupied, and speedily stripped to the waist-cloth, I was extended on a sort of low wooden bench. Here my attendant commenced his operations. Streams of hot and cold water were conveyed by different pipes into a small marble basin. From this I was first deluged with water of a suitable temperature, poured over me from a metal bowl. Then I was rubbed with a sort of felt glove, which effectually removed all impurities, together with the external layer of the skin. Next was produced a bowl of soap-suds, and a handful of vegetable fibres resembling flax, and with this I was well lathered from head to foot. I then sat up, while many basins of warm water were again thrown over me; and afterwards being swathed in dry wrappings, I was led back to where I had undressed. Here fresh linen was once more supplied, and after drinking a cup of coffee, I was left a short time to repose. The process, however, was not yet finished, for I was

soon obliged to submit to the shampooer, who kneaded my limbs, cracked my joints, and cleared any accidental callosity from my feet with pumice stone. Again left alone, I remained quietly covered up for half an hour, and then dressed, and went home to breakfast, with a feeling of elasticity and lightness that continued the whole day.

So much has been said of the extraordinary performances of the Almès, or public dancers, who are always summoned to enliven with their exhibitions the festivities with which both Turkish and Levantine families celebrate marriages, baptisms, and other happy events that lead to the assembling of their friends, that we gladly took advantage of an offer made us to witness their skill. On this occasion the *corps de ballet* consisted of four female dancers, whose agile evolutions were regulated by an orchestra composed of three male performers, seated on the ground. One of these played the dulcimer, the second a sort of violin with a single

string,* and the third a small tambourine inlaid with mother-of-pearl. The personal appearance of the ladies was any thing but attractive, and their gaudy and bespangled finery, such as would have equally suited performers of a similar class, in the front of a booth at Bartholomew-fair. They were variously and curiously dressed, two of them only being natives of Egypt. One had her hair arranged behind in long plaits, and to the extremities of these a considerable number of small gold coins were attached, while others had rows of these coins arranged round their foreheads, or suspended in their ears. Their eyelashes were blackened with antimony,

* The admirers of Paganini may learn with surprise that a species of violin, with a single string, is not only well-known in Egypt, but is frequently played in the streets with extraordinary skill. Of the celebrated Italian the Egyptians never heard, but they often listen with delight to the melodious sounds drawn forth from a single string by a wild untutored Arab.

and their nails stained with henna. The capacious trowsers of one of the exhibitors were of gold and silver brocade, enriched with spangles, and the waist of this lady was encircled with a soiled Cashmere shawl. Their necks and wrists were loaded with heavy metallic necklaces, and bracelets, to which, in one instance, massive anklets were superadded. The ballet was commenced by a dancer, whose steps were slow and little varied, but in the movement of whose arms there was occasionally something graceful as she raised them over her head to strike together a pair of cymbals that she held in her hands. Another soon joined her, and proceeded in the same monotonous style, but the dance quickly degenerated into a species of revolting pantomime, an exhibition of looks and gestures, without grace or elegance, and such as long habit alone could allow in any country to be tolerated. The tambourine player occasionally assisted the instruments with his voice, and some of his notes were not unmelodious, but his affected tones of

tenderness were accompanied with so much grimace, as often to produce a ludicrous effect. The whole scene excited only a feeling of pity and disgust, and we quitted it before the first set of dancers, fatigued by their exertions, were replaced by the second.

I walked early the next morning to the termination of the new canal. To my great surprise, in *this country*, and at *this season*, I found the atmosphere so damp and foggy, that the different vessels in the harbour could hardly be discerned. About eight o'clock the sun seemed to acquire sufficient power to disperse these mists, and the remainder of the day was, as usual, bright and clear.

In the evening I again explored the gardens on the banks of the canal, and crossing to the opposite side, examined a new and flourishing vineyard lately planted there. The young vines proved, by their healthy appearance, that they were not placed in unsuitable soil. Broad walks were bordered with roses, and other flowering

shrubs. Plantations of bananas exhibited bunches of blossoms, and pods of newly-formed fruit. Pomegranates, apricots, and almonds flourished as if in their native soil. But all these require constant watering, and, even with that, the majority of fruit trees are said to show signs of sickness and decay as soon as their roots penetrate the soil to a certain depth, where they find a saline quality unfavourable to their growth. If this be true, it seems strange that Moharrem Bey should so lately have incurred the expense of forming this vineyard; and I could not resist suggesting the probability of its being remedied by paving, at a certain depth, the spaces where fruit trees are to be planted; and thus, by forcing the roots to extend themselves laterally, prevent their reaching the saline and destructive portion of the soil.

CHAPTER V.

Ball on board the Madagascar frigate—Protestant English chapel and school—Presentation to the Pasha—Evening prayer in the anti-room—Unceremonious reception—The Pasha's courteous manner—His advice to assume the Turkish dress in Syria—Witticism of the Pasha—He relates an anecdote—The Pasha's opinion of the affairs of Greece, and prediction relative to the new king Otho—His communicative disposition—Termination of audience—Description of the Pasha—Ceremony of his quitting the palace.

On the evening of the 15th we were present at a ball, given by the officers on board the Madagascar, where the party must have consisted of at least two hundred individuals, among whom

were two European ladies in Oriental costume. One lady was habited in a magnificent suit, similar to those worn by Turkish women of distinction. Her hair elegantly twisted behind, and turned up over the back of the head, was confined in front with a richly-embroidered handkerchief, and additionally ornamented with jewels and flowers. A handsome kaftaan of striped silk, with large sleeves, fitted closely her person, and over that was worn a purple cloth jacket, covered entirely with embroidery and gold braiding, in beautiful patterns, producing a splendid rather than a pleasing effect. A rich girdle encircled her waist, and capacious trowsers of gold tissue, falling over her ancles, could with difficulty be distinguished from the usual dress of a female, and concealed the shape quite as effectually. The height of this lady displayed her gorgeous apparel to advantage, but being slightly formed, its weight seemed oppressive, and for dancing no dress could be

less suitable. Her fair companion appeared in a Levantine habit. The centre of her purple turban was resplendent with jewels, and her necklace, bracelets, and earrings were formed of brilliants and coloured stones, tastefully mingled together; but the long and numerous plaits of hair behind, the heavy folds and massive embroidery of a thick silk vest, and the large Cashmere, tied round her waist, with the ends nearly touching the ground, added nothing to the grace, but contributed to increase the oppressive heat of the mazy dance. The frigate was beautifully ornamented. The colours of different nations were united into one magnificent awning over the deck, the various recesses were decorated with palm branches, among which lights were judiciously disposed, and three large lustres suspended below the awning, gave a magnificent finish to this superb tent. Nothing could exceed the attention of our hosts; a handsome supper was served below,

and it was only with the first dawn of morning that we again reached the shore.

On Sunday I went to the service of the "Protestant English chapel," which is regularly performed in a suitable apartment on the ground-floor, under the consular roof. The chapel is small, and neatly fitted up, but, strange to say, out of the numerous body of English residents, not more than half-a-dozen individuals were here assembled. The service was performed by the resident Wesleyan missionary,—an exemplary well-intentioned man, but I fear his pulpit oratory would no where attract a large congregation.* How striking is the fact, that in a

* Missionary exertions in Egypt appear to have met with little success, for subsequently at Cairo, on attending public service at the house of Mr. Kreusè, although the English residents, including the operatives employed in the pasha's manufactories, are nearly as numerous as at Alexandria, the congregation consisted only of two out of the three missionaries,

country once so intolerant there should not only be a place specially dedicated to Protestant worship, but that it should be situated in a public avenue, and its designation inscribed in large letters over the door.

In an adjoining apartment, with a board also announcing its object, is the "English Protestant school." I looked in for a moment, and saw ten or twelve boys, apparently Europeans, busily employed, and a respectable young man acting as their preceptor. This school, I understand, is superintended by the Wesleyan pastor, who takes, however, no active part in its duties. The scholars were evidently the children of persons who paid for their education, and I saw neither Greeks, Copts, Arabs, nor other natives, to whom rational instruction would be a real blessing.

June 18th.—We had the honour of being

the wife of one of them, and another stranger like myself.

presented in the evening to his highness, the pasha* of Egypt. My companion and Mr. Thurburn, who kindly volunteered to officiate on the occasion, proceeded on horseback, while I followed, well satisfied to be more humbly mounted.

We reached the palace about eight o'clock, after a ride through the town of at least a mile. We then entered a mean gateway, and crossing part of a large enclosure, round which are several detached edifices, ascended a wide flight of steps leading to a spacious, irregular hall. This on one side was occupied by a row of thickly-placed windows, and the two ends were furnished with long divans, on which a few persons, engaged in conversation, were carelessly reclining. On the other were two apartments, the doors of which stood open; and between them was a large square recess, surrounded also with a divan, and cooled by open

* This title has been adopted by the Turks from the Persian pa-shah—viceroy.

windows. Here we found Mr. Boghoz,* an Armenian christian, the favourite minister, confidential counsellor, and chief interpreter of the pasha, who received us most courteously, and immediately addressed us with great fluency in Italian. He was soon called to attend his duties, and we removed into the adjoining hall to witness the ceremony of evening prayer, which was announced in the same loud, chanting tone, that I had daily heard from the minarets.

A considerable portion of the floor was speedily covered with mats, when at least thirty attendants assembled, and began their devotions. Two persons alternately chanted prayers, and verses from the Koraan; and one of them, habited in yellow, led the vocal part of the service, always commencing the genuflexions and prostrations. The whole party frequently knelt down—still continued their repetitions;—and then made prostrations, touching the ground several times with their fore-

* Now Boghoz Bey.

heads. Again they stood up, proceeding with their chant, and again and again repeated at intervals their prostrations, till the whole ceremonial was gone through. This devotional exercise, thus conducted with exemplary solemnity, is repeated every evening at the same hour.

It was no sooner concluded than an attendant came forward to usher us into the august presence of the ruler of Egypt. We proceeded into a large room, lighted by numerous windows on every side except that by which we entered. The pasha was standing up, but when he perceived our approach he hastily took his accustomed seat in the corner with great alertness. Round three sides of the room was a broad scarlet divan, supplied with cushions of gold brocade resting against the walls. The corners were distinguished as places of honour by a square of crimson and gold silk with a cushion of the same colour and material at the back of each. Mr. Boghoz, and a

rich Greek merchant, a favourite and frequent attendant on the pasha, were standing near him, in attitudes of humility, and near the door were stationed three attendants.

We were each presented in due form to his highness, who graciously saluted us, and made inquiries after our health, through the medium of Mr. Boghoz. The pasha, then, with a courteous movement of the hand, invited us to take seats by his side. The usual questions, relative to the place we last came from, where we proposed going, and the object of our journey, having been asked and answered with much facility and address by the state dragoman,—for the pasha speaks no language but Turkish,—we were told that his highness always felt pleasure in satisfying the curiosity of strangers, and would cheerfully reply to any inquiries we might wish to make. This induced us to speak of our projected journey to Damascus, and to ask if it might be considered at this moment as practicable and safe. We were told in reply, that the

taking of Acre, and the consequent rapid advance of Ibrahim Pasha in Syria, must speedily lead to the subjugation of the whole country;—that Damascus possessed no adequate means of resisting his victorious progress, and had no doubt already fallen, although there had not been time to receive the expected intelligence;—that in passing through a country which now acknowledged the pasha's authority, we should be furnished with such a firmaan as would ensure our safety, and obtain for us any assistance we might require;—that should we hear of the quiet surrender of Damascus before quitting Egypt, we might, if we pleased, proceed thither in our Frank clothes; but if the city had been forcibly entered, he would recommend us to assume the Turkish dress, as he could not answer for the effect of unsuccessful opposition upon an irritated and fanatic population.

Mr. Thurburn agreed with his highness in opinion as to the expediency of adopting the costume of the country, observing, that *hats*

had seldom been seen at Damascus, and the appearance of them at this juncture might produce discontent, or even public disturbance. The pasha replied, that the inhabitants of that city had always been barbarous, fanatic, and untractable; but, that before the end of a year, if it remained in his possession, the English consul, who had formerly been refused admission, should be established in peace and security, and *hats* no longer be considered a rarity. This last remark was accompanied with an arch look, and a hearty English laugh, on the part of the pasha, in which, the only two of his audience who understood the equivocal* meaning of the word as heartily joined, for hats are held in such abomination by the Turks as to be continually the subjects of wit and ridicule.

Coffee, without sugar, was now served in small ordinary China cups, and first presented

* It was afterwards explained to us that the pasha, on this occasion, had indulged in a pun.

to the pasha. Each cup placed within a plain silver stand, resembling an egg-cup with a low foot, was brought into the room without a salver, and presented, with a salaam, by a separate attendant. When emptied it was taken away in the usual uncouth Turkish manner,—the palm of one hand being held out to receive it, while that of the other was placed over it, and carrying it thus, the servant slowly retired.

The pasha still continued the conversation, and appeared to attach little importance to the weak and ill-combined efforts of his Syrian opponents. He said, that on the advance of his son Ibrahim, the pasha of Damascus, applied to the assembled pashas of the adjoining districts, who had collected their forces at no great distance, for such aid as would enable him efficiently to resist the invading troops; but they replied, that the sultan's army was advancing, and that the Turkish fleet would soon reach Tripoly; he had therefore only to wait patiently for these auxiliaries in order

to be effectually protected. But the pasha added, with great glee, that the chief towns in Syria, before that time, would fall into his hands, and the united troops of his adversaries speedily be dispersed by those already sent against them.

He then related an anecdote to illustrate the barbarized state of the inhabitants of Damascus. A European traveller, in the course of his journey, arrived in that city, to the great annoyance of the then governing pasha. After a short imprisonment, and suffering the punishment of the bastinado, he was dismissed, to find his way to some more hospitable asylum. On discovering to what country he belonged, it was suggested to the head of the government, that a complaint of this outrage might perhaps be made by the representative of the traveller's nation at Constantinople, and that perchance his high-mightiness might some day be called to account for the severity he had exercised. To be prepared for such an "untoward

event," the unfortunate guide, who had conducted the traveller thither, was instantly seized, and five hundred blows inflicted on the soles of his feet, for having brought the governor into such a dilemma. This was considered by the authorities to be a sufficient satisfaction to the traveller for the suffering he had inadvertently undergone, nor did they entertain any doubt of being elsewhere exculpated from all blame by this convincing proof of the promptitude and impartiality with which they administered justice.

Captains Lyons and Maunsel were now announced, and entered without ceremony to present their respects, an attention that seemed gratifying to our illustrious host. The conversation was principally kept up by Captain Lyons in French, in which language the adroit dragoman displayed great proficiency. The affairs of Greece were now discussed with much freedom, and the pasha roundly asserted that they were not yet in a train to be permanently settled.

He was of opinion, that if that country had produced any man of commanding talent, capable of uniting all parties, and of judiciously directing their efforts to one object, a favourable termination would long since have been obtained; and even now, if a prince possessed of power and wealth had been advanced to the throne, he might have reconciled the conflicting opinions, and opposing interests, which still distract that unhappy country, and have succeeded in establishing a government upon a solid foundation. At present, however, there was no sign that the newly-formed monarchy would be efficiently supported either by power, talent, or treasure,—and how then could its stability or permanence be anticipated?

He said, he knew the Greeks well, and had long since foretold to Admiral Codrington the untimely end of Capo d'Istria, and that his prediction had been fulfilled to the very letter, although a little later than he had expected. He believed the same fate to await the new king

Otho, unless he brought with him a sufficient body of troops to secure his personal safety, and a well-stored treasury to satisfy the rapacity of those who could be gained by no other means.

He referred at some length to himself, and his own early proceedings.* He said that he came into Egypt a mere unprotected soldier, with nothing but his sword and his courage to befriend him,—for he had not even secured the support of an influential patron in the supreme divan at Constantinople, an advantage which those sent to distant countries generally took care to obtain; —that his ambition, at that time, did not aspire to a very high grade; but by taking advantage of circumstances as they arose, and by judiciously managing the various classes of men with whom he had to deal, he had gradually, and by his own efforts only, raised himself to the station he now filled.

* The pasha, in alluding to his military career, forcibly described his original grade by saying that "he had not even an attendant to light his pipe."

This was the substance of a long discourse,—for he sometimes entered so circumstantially into details, that there was no hope of accurately remembering them. What he said, however, left an impression on the mind, that he valued himself chiefly upon the profound policy with which he had always acted; and considered himself as solely indebted, for the successful completion of all his plans, to the skill and dexterity with which he had made others unconsciously subservient to his own views.

We now thought it right to terminate our audience, leaving the naval captains to continue the conversation.

The pasha was simply dressed,—without either embroidery or jewels,—and wore a sabre plainly mounted in gold. His stature is rather under the middle size,—he does not appear to be more than sixty,—is plump, and well-looking,—with dark, restless, piercing eyes,—an animated countenance,—and a prepossessing manner. He is still fresh and unwrinkled; and although his

beard is silvery, it adds only a certain dignity to his aspect, without giving him the appearance of age. His manner of speaking is quick and lively, he laughs often and heartily, and is quite free from that air of solemn dulness so characteristic of the Turks, and probably produced by the narcotic fumes they perpetually inhale.

On the divan, a neatly-folded cambric pocket handkerchief, and a European gold snuff-box, to which occasionally he had recourse, lay by his side. After our coffee, a pipe was brought for himself only, this mark of honour being never conferred on any British subject below the rank of a peer.

The spacious apartment in which we were received, notwithstanding its splendid divan, had an empty, forlorn look. From the ceiling, indeed, a handsome glass chandelier, filled with wax-lights, was suspended; but the only article of cabinet furniture it contained, was a small round table standing in the middle of the room, and upon this was placed a silver filagree branch

with wax-lights, each in a separate glass shade. The dreary, unpainted walls were only varied, near the door, by having, on each side, four or five coloured prints, in black frames, disposed without order, close together; and these seemed to consist, either of a set of marine signals, or of the national colours of maritime powers.

We took our departure with as little ceremony as we had entered, and, on returning to the recess we had previously occupied, found several English residents, enjoying the cool of the evening, in conversation with some of the officers of the palace, under an open window, upon the divan.

In the course of half-an-hour, the noise of people collecting in the hall announced that the pasha was about to quit the palace. He passed slowly along, preceded by lights, and followed by a numerous train. All advanced and made their reverences to him on his way, which he returned with a smile, and a gracious inclination of the head. He then descended the stairs, mounted a grey horse, and, amidst the glare of

torches, and the crowding of attendants, rode across the square, a distance, perhaps, of fifty yards, where he entered the hareem, and his followers filed off to the right and left.

Mr. Boghoz, and our naval compatriots, soon joined us, and we all entered a neighbouring apartment as the guests of the state dragoman. Coffee was again offered, and we were now complimented with pipes, which had amber mouth-pieces magnificently set with diamonds.

CHAPTER VI.

Sociability in Alexandria—Egyptian politics—Syrian governments always unquiet—More easily controlled by the contiguous Pasha than by the distant Sultan—Bravery of Ibrahim Pasha, and Superiority of Arab Troops—Egyptian Fleet—Arabs capable of becoming good Sailors—Ancient Alexandria—Modern Fortifications—Undignified appearance of captive Pasha of Acre—Causes of quarrel between the Viceroy and Abdallah Pasha—Ingratitude of Pasha of Acre—Egyptian Bulletin after Assault of Acre—Magnanimous Reception of Captive—Extensive Influence of European Public Opinion.

I RODE early the next morning round the environs of the town, a habit that I have regularly adopted since my arrival, not only to make myself familiar with all accessible objects, but to re-establish my health, which this dry climate

has already greatly recruited. The heat, towards the middle of the day, will not allow us to quit the shelter of the streets; but in the evening, we conform to the custom of the place, by making donkey excursions with some of our friends. We afterwards accompany them home, a small social circle assembles round the tea-table, and thus the remainder of the evening passes pleasantly away.

At one of these agreeable parties, (June 19th,) the report of a salute of artillery announced to the inhabitants of Alexandria that some favourable public intelligence had arrived; and while we were speculating upon the probable movements of Ibrahim Pasha, in Syria, a messenger arrived from the palace, to inform Mr. Thurburn that the news of the surrender of Damascus had just been received.

Of the favourable issue of the contest between the viceroy and the Porte, no doubt whatever seems here to be entertained. The pasha's partisans—for even in Egypt there are malcontents—readily admit that his treasury has

been greatly impoverished by the enormous expenses incurred to carry on the war; while the summary process of impressing, or rather kidnapping, men, to supply, as well the army as the fleet, necessarily tends to diminish his popularity; nor do they attempt to conceal the fact, that his resources, both in men and money, are far from inexhaustible. Still, the crippled state of the sultan, should the non-intervention principle continue to be acted upon, makes it highly probable that the Porte will be the first to relinquish the conflict.

We were repeatedly assured, that the pasha had no wish to continue hostilities, merely for the sake of extending his territory, or consolidating his power;—that he had no desire to become an independent sovereign, unless the sultan's obstinacy should compel him to that decisive step; and that after obtaining any signal success, he had invariably, though hitherto in vain, made reasonable overtures of accommodation. But should Syria be completely subdued, of which there was at present every

prospect,—for Damascus had surrendered,—Aleppo could not be successfully defended,—and most of the intermediate places had already submitted,—he would of course be desirous to retain possession of his new conquest, as that country yielded precisely the supplies that Egypt most urgently required.

The Syrian governments had been always subject to popular commotions and capricious changes, the natural consequence of their remote position from the centre of Ottoman power, and of the insufficiency of that power to enforce obedience. Under the control of Mahommed Ali public order could with more certainty be maintained, new commercial relations might be established, and no loss could accrue to the sultan, as the viceroy would willingly pay the whole tribute heretofore levied, (a very small portion of which had of late reached the imperial coffers,) and would be quite content to hold both territories under the usual sovereignty of the Porte. The obstinacy of the sultan, however, and the dregs of the old Ottoman policy, made up of arrogance

and ignorance, that still lingers in the supreme divan, rendered it very uncertain whether his sublime highness, even at present, would accede to such terms.

Of Ibrahim Pasha's personal bravery there could be no question; his knowledge of military tactics, though limited, was far superior to that of the leaders to whom he was opposed; and, contrary to eastern custom, he had shown a disposition to be guided by those better instructed than himself. His name alone spread terror through the Turkish ranks, while his mere presence inspired his own army with confidence and courage. The Ottoman leaders were said to be weak and intimidated, their troops raw, undisciplined, and dispirited, without enthusiasm to undertake, or energy to sustain, any vigorous effort. The Arabs, on the contrary, trained by European instructors, under the inspection of their victorious chief, had become, to the astonishment of all, an orderly, tractable, and well-disciplined army. They believe their leader to be invincible, and fight with the reckless courage

that the grand dogma of their religion inspires. At Acre they rushed fearlessly up to an impregnable point, from which their companions had, again and again, been swept away with useless slaughter; and to this they were incited by the indiscreet, but impetuous ardour of Ibrahim himself, than whom, no European conqueror could be more prodigal of human life.

The Egyptian fleet, we were told, although not equal to the army, was effective and well appointed. The Arabs, contrary to all calculation, had in *one* year become expert sailors, and in *three* were expected to be capable of executing all necessary naval manœuvres. If the officers had made the same progress, there would be nothing to fear; but a longer time was requisite to establish, in a new species of service, that punctuality and promptitude which their more important duties demand. That the sailors would fight well there could be no doubt, and whether any essential deficiency would be found among the officers had yet to be proved. The Turkish

fleet was, indeed, powerful; but the celerity and success with which, under the eye of the pasha, his own navy had been created and equipped, both surprised and intimidated his adversaries, who showed no great disposition to put its prowess to the proof. In the event of their encountering each other, a favourable result was confidently anticipated; and the Turkish fleet once annihilated, the sultan, after all his vain boasting, would have no other resource but to accept the terms so often proposed by his powerful vassal.*

I examined with great interest the remains of ancient Alexandria, which cover an enormous space beyond the walls of the modern town, and are now entirely buried beneath heaps of sand. Surely the ancient builders of Egyptian cities must have used some means, at present unpractised, to guard against this constant and ruinous accumulation, or the country must for-

* Such were the speculations of the politicians at Alexandria, in 1832.

merly have been less subject to its destructive effects; for I hear continually, that in every part of Egypt, whatever the hand of man neglects, whether of building or soil, is thus speedily buried; and as the sand, like snow, is drifted by the wind into mounts and ridges, masses of ruins are thus converted into long mounds, or insulated heaps, that in time acquire both height and solidity; and upon these, the foundations of more recent structures are securely laid.

Modern Alexandria is shut in by walls and fortifications, extending far beyond the inhabited portion, which, being merely a narrow neck of land, has been again enclosed by an inner wall, stretching from one harbour to the other. In this intermural space are several Arab villages, consisting of wretched mud huts, with low doors, that cannot be entered without stooping,—their flat roofs made of old mats or tattered canvass, thickly coated with mud, and supported by slender poles of palm wood. The houses themselves, huddled together like a cluster

of swallows' nests—not appearing of sufficient height to admit their inhabitants to stand upright within, and their size seldom exceeding a few square feet. These miserable hovels, occupied by a squalid population,—often the families of soldiers, immersed in misery and filth,—are continually surrounded by groups of both sexes, sitting indolently at their doors, sometimes in the midst of poultry, incessantly seeking a scanty supply of food, and always attended by gaunt and famished dogs, that rush out upon a stranger, as if driven by hunger to search for prey.

Within this desert boundary two forts have been raised on considerable heights, that have evidently originated from the accumulation of sand over heaps of ruins, and many interesting remains are, doubtless, concealed beneath. Near one of these forts is situated a convent of Italian capuchins, with a walled garden;—a hospital for the sick, upon an extensive scale;—the remains of the mosque of a thousand pillars, once a Christian church;—and near it the Greek

convent, a building of considerable dimensions. In several parts of the same circuit are the handsome houses of many foreign settlers, prettily scattered about; and by constant watering their gardens and palm-groves are maintained in continual verdure. Beneath the soil many ancient cisterns still receive their annual supply of water from the new canal, and their mouths are every where to be seen, resembling those of ordinary wells. At the extremity of this enclosure, on a lonely spot, far from the town, the pasha has raised a mosque, in compliance with the religious feelings of his subjects, and prepared a tomb for his own remains.

Two gates strongly fortified and guarded, give access to what would elsewhere be the country, but which here is one melancholy, interminable waste of sand. Of these gates, one leads to Rosetta, and the other towards Pompey's Pillar, and thence to the new canal, the Nile, and Cairo. For several miles in circumference beyond the external wall,

the plain is every where furrowed with long ridges, and insulated mounts of sand. Some would seem to point out the ancient sites of streets, others of wide areas, once bordered with large edifices;—in one place the outline of an amphitheatre is distinctly marked, and there are other evident signs of extensive buildings. Such of these relics as are near the town have served for ages as inexhaustible quarries;—capitals, shafts, bases of columns, and other carved fragments of marble and granite, are often profusely scattered about, and frequently applied to the most ignoble uses.

Towards the margin of the little strip of cultivation, near the canal, where many irregularities have probably been levelled, the ground every where gives out a hollow sound, to the feet of the passing animal, and in some places the sand sinks so deeply, as not to allow an accurate survey with safety to be made. Still further, in the direction of Rosetta, is a district called Ramla, where, on a wide

sandy plain, the flourishing state of numerous clumps of palm trees seems to indicate the presence of water at no great depth. After this, the desert again becomes dreary and unproductive, extending on the left to Abookeer, where a single cannon-ball was the only trace I saw of the great events it once witnessed. From thence the sands stretch along to Rosetta:—while to the right may be observed the margin of the new canal, which, forty miles further, joins the Nile.

As I returned one morning from a ride, I met in the town a group of horsemen, proceeding at a quick pace. They seemed to excite universal attention, and received a salute from a guard they passed. In hastily endeavouring to get out of the way, my donkey driver pointed out the principal personage as Abdallah Pasha. I remained a few minutes stationary, to allow them to pass, and had thus a very good sight of the captive chief of Acre. With some astonishment, I perceived that he was a mere common-

place, vulgar-looking man, without the slightest pretension to any thing military or commanding in his appearance;—his age from thirty-five to forty,—rather negligently dressed, but his crimson velvet saddle-cloth, and indeed all the trappings of his horse, covered with glittering ornaments and pendent tassels. He was accompanied by a numerous retinue, as well no doubt for security as for state, and thus attended, he enjoys a certain degree of liberty.

Mohammed Ali, anxious to exhibit his recent improvements, conducted him one morning to the arsenal, and seemed to point out with great satisfaction the rapid progress of his numerous shipwrights in the construction of the magnificent vessel now on the stocks. This shew of superiority could not be gratifying to a fallen foe, and more especially to one who is said to retain an ample share of Turkish fanaticism and prejudice.

The grounds of the misunderstanding between the contending parties are somewhat differently

related. It appears, however, that Abdallah Pasha had long since felt the necessity of introducing European improvements into the discipline of his troops, incited probably by the example of the sultan, against whom he had previously rebelled, and of Mohammed Ali, who had been instrumental in bringing him back to subjection. By the intercession of Mohammed Ali, he made his peace with the Porte, but ungratefully forgetting that obligation, he afterwards harboured the discontented fugitives that at one time left Egypt in great numbers, and sought to provide against future exigencies by enticing individuals into his service who had been instructed in European tactics at the expense of the pasha of Egypt. Disregarding the just complaints of his irritated neighbour, and hoping to profit by the well-known jealousy of the Porte,—after a vain appeal from both parties to the sultan for redress,—hostilities were commenced, and an Egyptian army entered Syria. The Turkish despot at first lent a willing ear to

the angry viceroy, and then, with his usual vacillating policy, justified the proceedings of the pasha of Acre. But the town besieged, he imperiously commanded his refractory vassals to accommodate their differences, and peremptorily ordered the pasha of Egypt to withdraw his troops. Mohammed Ali, however, was too conscious of his own strength to comply with this injunction, and too well aware of the tottering state of Ottoman power to dread the consequences of disobedience. The quarrel thus became general, and Mohammed Ali was proceeded against as a rebellious subject; but with the characteristic tardiness of Turkish proceedings, the sultan neglected to succour the besieged town, and merely issued threatening proclamations, until a great part of Syria had submitted to Egyptian rule.

Ibrahim Pasha, who had signalized himself in Arabia, and had proved a destructive fire-brand in Greece,—over which country the successful interposition of European maritime force is shrewdly

suspected to have alone prevented his assuming the sovereignty,—in the mean time, continued the siege for nearly six months, and at length took the town by assault. This gallant achievement advanced his military reputation to the highest point, although, without detracting from his intrepidity, nothing is more certain than that the town would never have fallen into his hands if his adversaries had possessed a competent knowledge of systematic defence.

In emulation of more civilized countries, or ambitious, perhaps, of European renown, the Egyptian government has occasionally issued "bulletins," in French, describing the usual details of warlike operations. "The third Bulletin of the army of Syria," printed at Alexandria, and dated "Le 9 de la Lune Mouharrem, 1248," which corresponds with June 7th, 1832, announces, "That a corps of the army of Syria having besieged Acre during six months, his highness Ibrahim Pasha, at length resolved to terminate the affair by storming the

place. On the 26th of May he assembled the various officers under his command, and appointed the stations they were each to fill. Achmet Bey, general of brigade, was ordered to advance to the breach of the Kapoo Boorjoo tower, with the first battalion of the second regiment of infantry, led by their colonel. The second battalion, led by the lieutenant-colonel, was directed to attack the second breach, opposite Nebbi Salah; and the third, commanded by Omar Bey, was appointed to mount the third and last breach, commonly known as that of Zavia. The fourth battalion of this regiment was directed to be placed in reserve, in case of need, near the first breach, and a battalion of the tenth regiment was stationed in the trenches for the same purpose near the third breach; while another battalion of this regiment was appointed to proceed with scaling ladders, an hour after midnight, to the trenches near the Kereem Boorjoo, and there to await the moment of assault. Each officer received also his particular instructions from the general-in-chief.

"During the night of the 26th and 27th the batteries continued their fire, and at sunrise orders were issued for the assault. The troops directed against the breach of Zavia established their position within the entrenchments. Those that attacked the Kapoo Boorjoo, being fiercely resisted by the besieged, hesitated, and for a moment seemed to give way. This was immediately perceived by the general-in-chief, who rushed forward, sword in hand, and menaced with instant death any retrograde movement."

Private reports say that he cut down two officers of this battalion with his own hand, but, though universally believed, this, of course, does not appear in the bulletin.

The document, however, proceeds to state that "he compelled his men again to advance and mount the breach,—that the reserve came up, and while one party maintained a fire that repulsed the enemy, the other threw up a protecting entrenchment. The breach opposite the Nebbi Salah, in the mean

time, was taken, and possession obtained of the cannon and mortars of the bastions.

"While the battle raged furiously in the different breaches, the besieged, to the amount of two thousand, made a vigorous resistance, and in the course of an hour and a half, rushed several times into the entrenchments of the Kapoo Boorjoo, but were invariably driven back. At the breach of Zavia they also made similar efforts, and always with the same result.

"Still, however, for some hours, the constant firing of cannon and musketry proved that the bloody conflict had not yet ceased. At length, about four in the afternoon, that battalion of the tenth, which had already obtained possession of the breach of Zavia, quitting the entrenchments, made so vigorous a charge, that their defeated adversaries threw down their arms. The firing now ceased, a parley was demanded, and a deputation arrived, consisting of some officers of artillery, together with the Mufti and Imaun, who threw themselves at the

feet of the general and implored his clemency. Pardon and protection were instantly accorded—property was ordered to be respected;—the officers were allowed to retain their arms;—and personal safety, but nothing further, guaranteed to Abdallah Pasha.

"A little after sun-set, Selim Bey, general of brigade, was sent to communicate with the captive pasha, and at midnight Abdallah, accompanied by his kiahia, arrived in person, and presented himself to the general-in-chief, by whom he was received with the honours due to his rank. After a conference of half an hour they both mounted on horseback, and followed by the kiahia, retired to one of the palaces of Abdallah, situated outside the town, where they passed the night.

"Some of the disorders, inseparably connected with a successful assault, were committed by the troops on obtaining possession of the town; but the next morning order was completely re-established, and the pillage restored.

"Abdallah Pasha, having expressed a desire to be sent to Egypt, embarked on the 29th of May, at Kaifa, for Alexandria, and reached that place on the 2nd of June. His highness the viceroy was no sooner informed of his arrival than he dispatched an officer in his own cutter to conduct him on shore. The captive chief entered the boat with his kiahia, and two or three others of his suite, and on disembarking hastened to the presence of Mohammed Ali, who received him with the distinction due to his station, and freely forgave all his offences.

"The quarantine regulations were considerately ordered to be dispensed with, and Abdallah took up his residence in that division of the palace destined for the reception of distinguished strangers.

"Of Ibrahim Pasha's forces, there were sixty-one officers and one thousand three hundred and sixty-eight soldiers wounded, and twenty-three officers and four hundred and eighty-nine soldiers killed."

Thus far I have given the substance of this curious Mussulman document, to which report adds, that with the exception of the momentary trepidation so successfully arrested by the firmness of Ibrahim, his Arab troops fought with undaunted courage, and executed all their complicated manœuvres with admirable coolness and skill. They are said also to have secured and retained much valuable spoil, for the secret hoards of Abdallah, filled with jewels, cashmeres, and other precious objects, were discovered, and forced during the night, and the greater part of this costly pillage irretrievably lost. Several European instructors were killed, and one of them, an English engineer, unfortunately met his death by an accidental explosion of Congreve rockets.

Immediately after the publication of the third bulletin containing the above details of the taking of Acre, a similar document, in *Italian*, issued from the press, entitled "The Arrival in Alexandria of Abdallah, late pasha of Acre,

and his presentation to Mohammed Ali, viceroy of Egypt."

It states, "That while all Egypt was exulting in the first joyful intelligence of the fall of Acre, and the captivity of Abdallah Pasha; and while the full details of the glorious 27th of May were impatiently expected, one of his highness's vessels was discovered, on the 2nd of June, approaching Alexandria, making signals that she had a person of distinction on board.

"The viceroy was then at the arsenal, and a conjectural report having spread, that Abdallah had arrived, the most intense public attention was directed towards the vessel. Nothing certain, however, could yet be known, and, indeed, it might only be an officer, dispatched with particulars from the camp at Acre by sea, at the same time that the courier had been expedited by land. A boat was instantly ordered to ascertain the truth, and thus intelligence soon reached the viceroy that Abdallah and his kiahia had actually arrived. The captive pasha, not know-

ing the magnanimous soul of the viceroy, was in a pitiable state of agitation and uncertainty, as to the reception he was destined to meet. Mohammed Ali, hearing this, instantly ordered the state-barge to be dispatched for him; and commanded a former acquaintance, Kengi Osman, paymaster of marine, to meet and console him with an assurance of his generous sentiments and favourable intentions. The viceroy then passed with his suite to the divan, where, taking his usual seat in the corner, the compassionate feelings of his heart clouded with melancholy his illustrious countenance.

"After a long and deep silence, he exclaimed, 'I am aware that Abdallah is overwhelmed with apprehension;—let him then be exempted from the rigour of the quarantine, that his anxiety may be more speedily relieved.'

"The debarkation of the captive was announced, about sunset, by a salute from the fort; when many persons of the court advanced

to receive him, and the populace crowded the shore to witness his landing. The compliments of the officers in attendance having been paid, he now slowly advanced, with his suite, towards the palace, his head bowed down, and his spirit apparently broken.

"He is of ordinary stature, slightly made, with a light brown beard, lively eyes, and fierce countenance. His age appeared to be about thirty-five. He wore a long vest of blue cloth, like that adopted by the military at Constantinople, resembling a European cloak, and his turban was a cashmere shawl, negligently wound round his head.

"He now mounted the staircase, and passing the first hall, filled with spectators, advanced to the chamber of audience, which was magnificently illuminated, and where, in the corner of the divan, sat the viceroy ready to receive him. On reaching the threshold of the room, Mohammed Ali arose, as if to encourage him to approach. Abdallah now hastened forward with

downcast looks, and throwing himself at the viceroy's feet, kissed the hem of his robe. In this humiliating, this affecting position,—with a voice scarcely articulate,—Abdallah exclaimed—'Forgive, O forgive my offences!—and since heaven has endowed your highness with the great qualities of a sovereign, may you visit my delinquencies with the clemency of a monarch, rather than punish them with the severity of a vizier!' Mohammed Ali held out his hand, and raised him from his lowly posture. He then invited him to take the corner of the divan, where, in compliance with the solicitations of the viceroy, Abdallah, at length, placed himself on his knees.

"The viceroy now consoled him with many expressions of kindness; assured him that he retained no feeling of rancour; that the past was all forgotten, and that henceforth he should consider him as his son. He then commanded the kiahia to be seated, ordered coffee to be served, and a pipe to be presented to his new

guest, which, though at first declined, he was finally prevailed upon to accept.

"At the close of this moving scene, the viceroy made a sign for the bystanders to withdraw, and then remained for half-an-hour in private conference with Abdallah and his kiahia.

"A suitable residence had been provided in a palace near that of the viceroy, and he was now requested to retire there for repose;—to return on the morrow, and daily to repeat his visit.

"Abdallah then withdrew, with a re-assured and tranquil countenance, followed by a crowd of persons belonging to the court. Having descended the staircase, he found the viceroy's own horse in waiting, richly caparisoned. On ascertaining to whom it belonged, he first kissed the saddle, then mounted, and, followed by a train of officers on foot, proceeded to his destined habitation, where a guard of honour was stationed to attend him.

"The viceroy presented him with a snuff-box, richly set with brilliants; another, beautifully enamelled; and a sabre, mounted in gold. Orders were also expedited to Cairo, that a palace might be prepared for his reception, to which he will remove as soon as his family from Acre shall arrive.

"Through the whole of this affecting interview, Mohammed Ali displayed those noble and generous sentiments, with which his great soul is richly gifted. Mercy is one of the most exalted attributes of a sovereign: hence the magnanimity thus evinced,—illustrated by the glorious qualities that so pre-eminently distinguish him,—when recorded on the page of history,—will confer immortal honour on his name."

This singular and characteristic statement was printed in the same form, and sold at the same price, as the bulletins, although it does not profess to be an official document. It must, however, have had the sanction of government:—the inflated style is manifestly Arabic;—and it was,

probably, dictated by some of the retainers of the court. The minute description it affords, seems pretty clearly to prove, that the pasha's magnanimity was an affair of calculation;—that the whole scene was got up for stage effect, and made available by giving the details in a European language. Still it is cheering to observe the progress of amelioration, and to witness, amidst lamentable evidences of barbarism, the influence of European public opinion; for the wary Orientals well know how to estimate and imitate the milder and more equitable usages of other countries, whenever their interest can thereby be promoted.

According to the universally received law of *civilized* nations, Mohammed Ali could have no power over the life of a vanquished foe. What, then, becomes of the vaunted clemency of the pasha? To have destroyed Abdallah for the aggressions that in the East continually lead to war, and for attempting to defend his invaded territory, would have been a

base assassination—an act of atrocity against which every European government might have been expected to protest, if we had not already seen that the fear of disturbing the nicely-adjusted balance established by the "great powers" in our own quarter of the globe, had heretofore allowed enormities *more* glaring to pass uncensured;—the shambles of Cairo to teem with enslaved Greeks, exposed for sale to the highest bidder; and the hareems and domestic offices of the East to be filled, as they *still* are, with the flower of the Greek population, compelled to abjure their faith, and doomed to the most abject degradation that despotic power urged by insatiable cupidity can enforce.

Had Abdallah Pasha fallen some years earlier into the hands of his antagonist, there would have been little chance of his surviving the capture of Acre. The massacre of the Mamelukes at Cairo must have recurred to his memory as he approached Egypt; nor could he have forgotten the frequent and savage exhibitions at the

gate of the seraglio in Constantinople: hence,—ferocious and impetuous himself,—he well knew the critical position in which he was placed, and advanced with trepidation to the threshold of his conqueror;—hence, the mean and dastardly servility which induced him to invoke mercy where he owed no allegiance; and implore pardon, on his knees, for the ordinary offences of despotic rulers. In conformity with eastern usage, he is then consoled for the loss of all he possessed by a promise of adoption; and with the semblance of liberty, is always encircled by a guard of honour, virtually his jailors.

CHAPTER VII.

The Ancient Necropolis of Alexandria—Difficulty of exploring the Catacombs—Quarantine Regulations established in Egypt—Moharrem Bey's Garden—Female Cavalcade—Visit of an English Lady to the Hareem—Activity at the Arsenal—Passage to Syria engaged in an English Schooner—Oriental Policy and arbitrary Proceedings of Mohammed Ali—Excessive Imposts in Egypt—Kindness experienced at Alexandria—Eve of Departure.

As I was naturally desirous to examine the series of ancient remains absurdly called the "Baths of Cleopatra,"—for every unappropriated relic is ignorantly attributed to this celebrated queen, —I visited, on the 22nd of June, that part of the coast, near the windmills, where these excavations are situated. This was evidently the

position of the ancient necropolis of Alexandria; but the whole line of coast has undergone some important change since that period,—for many of the oblong cavities prepared for the dead are now on the edge of the sea; and others, below its level, are filled with water, which has, probably, led to the erroneous conclusion that they were originally baths.

The shore consists of a low ridge of sandstone rock, in which innumerable cavities, of a sarcophagus shape, have been wrought; and the same appearances may be observed on the opposite side of this rocky mound, facing the land, wherever such cavities have been exposed by the formation of modern quarries. These excavations, often arranged regularly in rows, are of various sizes, and evidently belong to different epochs. One that I remarked, resembled the stone coffins of our Saxon ancestors, decreasing gradually in width, while a circular hollow was left for the head.

I saw, also, in the same direction, the remains of a Roman columbarium, with the usual niches, and rows of cavities for urns. Indeed the whole shore here exhibits a great abundance and variety of sepulchral vestiges. Sometimes there are excavated square chambers, containing several rows of sarcophagi; but more frequently they occur without order, and for the most part are without ornament. One of them, however, had evidently belonged to a family of distinction. It is much ruined; but the remains of a sculptured entrance, with a flight of steps, are still visible; and the sarcophagi within have been all tastefully decorated with circular wreaths in bas relief. In one place I observed a handsome square chamber, terminating in a well-formed arch, all excavated in the solid rock. At some distance from the sea, in a recent quarry, a square room and staircase had also been laid open, both still covered with

stucco; but neither here, nor elsewhere, did I remark any remains of painting, except a few fragments of mortar, of a deep red.

At the distance of more than a mile along the shore, I likewise saw the entrance to the catacombs. On the perpendicular face of a rock, a large ornamented excavation, which had probably once been the portico, is now nearly filled with sand. The summits of several well-wrought door-ways are visible within, just sufficiently cleared to admit of their being entered on the hands and knees. Further on, the passages are said to be more free, and they lead into a long series of corridors and chambers; but as lights, cords, arms, and attendants, are required to explore these gloomy recesses, I felt no disposition to make such numerous arrangements, without being sure that the result would repay the exertion, and of this my guide seemed by no means sanguine.

On my way, one evening, through the town, I was surprised to observe, that the usual rigid regulation of not being allowed to pass along the street, however short the distance, without a lantern, was not enforced; but, that contrary to custom, lights were in most of the shops, and many pedestrians in the streets. On reaching the bottom of what may be called Frank Street, I saw in the middle of an open space, near the post-office, a blazing tar-barrel, forming, with other combustibles, a large fire, round which a crowd was collected. Lamps were suspended before many of the houses, fire-arms were continually exploding, and squibs and crackers popped actively about. This fête, I discovered, was intended to celebrate the Eve of St. John, for, heretofore, when Egypt was seldom free from plague, the heat of summer so invariably arrested its progress that it was popularly believed always to subside on this day.

The pasha has long established quarantine regulations on the frontiers of Lower Egypt; and although these are not always punctually observed, they have been the means of keeping the country free from this destructive scourge for the last eight years. It was lately, however, introduced into Damietta from Syria, probably by some prejudiced or fraudulent dealer, who succeeded in corrupting the fidelity, or eluding the vigilance of the guard. A military cordon was instantly drawn round the town, which effectually prevented the further advance of the pestilence, and within the limit thus inclosed, it quickly subsided.*

My curiosity next led me to the garden of Moharrem Bey, about two miles from the town. The important possessor of this attractive domain, now on duty with the army in Syria, married one of the daughters of the pasha,

* See Note.

who afterwards died. His residence, a mere summer pavilion, is situated on the banks of the new canal, with the apartments destined for the hareem overlooking the garden. The windows are large and numerous, but so thickly trellised, that even were the usual occupants here, no prying eye could penetrate their retired recesses. A small court between the house and garden is bounded by the same sort of impenetrable fence, but finished at the top in ornamental, circular compartments. The garden is extensive, with elevated paved walks, covered with trellis, and shaded with vines; while channels of masonry, on each side, supply the water which the necessity of irrigation perpetually demands. Other divisions contain plantations of fruit-trees, among which borders of shrubs and flowers are prettily intermingled. In the middle is a large open kiosk, raised on a stone platform, with steps on each side, where the visitor may be

regaled with coffee, and is usually presented with flowers.

As I returned, by the road near Pompey's pillar, I remarked that the sandy plain was almost every where covered with half-dried heaps of a species of Salsola from which soda is extracted. The proprietor of the garden I had just left obtained from the pasha a monopoly of this indigenous bounty of nature, and to his agents only permission is allowed, to collect the plant, or prepare the ashes. Nearer to the sea, in the neighbourhood of the windmills, the ice-plant* flourishes in luxuriant profusion, its stalks and leaves more thickly gemmed than usual with large transparent tubercles. These contain a considerable quantity of limpid, brackish water; and as the ashes of this plant abound with alkali, it is of course subject to the same monopoly.

When I had nearly reached the city, I met a

* Mesembryanthemum Crystallinum.

curious cavalcade passing one of the gates. It consisted first, of a large coach with closed blinds, preceded and surrounded by many attendants, both on horseback and on foot. Next came a crowd of females, mounted on asses and mules, all closely enveloped in sable wrappers, with their features concealed by long, white face-cloths. Attendants on foot led the animals they bestrode; and others, more gaily dressed, were mounted on horseback. Of the latter, the greater part, or perhaps all, were negroes, who evinced, by their consequential air, and plump, well-fed appearance, that they were the guardians to whose care women of rank are here specially confided.

This motley assemblage was the hareem of the pasha, going to spend a few days at the house and garden I had just been inspecting. Every one carefully drew back as the troop advanced, and my timid attendant perseveringly

resisted all my endeavours to obtain a closer view. Some foot soldiers, indeed, who formed a part of their escort, would effectually have prevented a near approach.

An English lady, now here, informed me that she was lately invited, at the desire of the pasha, to make a visit to the secluded inmates of the viceregal hareem. On taking advantage of this welcome opportunity, the reception she experienced was highly flattering. Her dress, as might be expected, excited much curiosity; and some of the finer materials of which it was composed were greatly admired.

The three principal ladies, who seemed of superior rank, were treated with great deference, and served by the others. They were magnificently dressed, and their attendants were all richly decorated with gold and jewels. In manner they were perfectly easy and well bred, and no embarrassment was felt, as an Italian lady, who gave lessons in music, had

been engaged to interpret between them. The dinner was served on fine English china, but on a low, Turkish table. A deep flounce of brocade answered the purpose of a table-cloth,—cushions were the seats,—embroidered napkins were abundantly supplied, and knives, forks, and spoons, were regularly laid, although the latter only were much in request. The splendid apartments were furnished with rich divans and cushions, and some of them with a piano, on which several of the attendants played with considerable proficiency.

The chief amusement of the ladies seemed to consist in petting a little negro child,—a general favourite—fed with sugar-plums, and encouraged in childish flippancy, by each in her turn; and all were greatly diverted with the pert replies it frequently made. On taking leave the visitor was presented with a cashmere shawl, and left the ladies with the agreeable impression

that the visit had been productive of mutual satisfaction.

Two days before we quitted Alexandria I inspected the arsenal, but was too late to see the pasha, who had just returned to the palace. He comes every day to this scene of preparation and activity, and seems to inspect with great satisfaction the progress of the numerous mechanics here busily employed. The great object of attraction, however, as well to himself as to strangers, is the huge line of battle ship now constructing, pierced for one hundred and thirty guns. The sides of this stately vessel literally swarm with workmen—a strange mixture of Europeans and natives—whose noisy hammers and discordant voices form a deafening babel of confusion; but amidst all this, order and regularity every where predominate. The pasha's impatience to add to the number and strength of his fleet far outstrips the rapid progress of the busy crowd here

constantly employed, although their efforts, even in Europe, would be highly extolled.

We now received intelligence that the captain of an English schooner, bound to Smyrna, in quest of cargo, was willing to land us at any port we pleased on the Syrian coast. Anxious to take advantage of so unexpected an opportunity, we went immediately on board, and found the Portland, a small, but well-fitted-up vessel, and made without difficulty an arrangement for our passage. We agreed, should the wind be favourable, to sail on the 29th, and my companion engaged as dragoman, Antonio, a Greek, with a recommendation from the consulate, who, besides his own language, speaks Arabic, Turkish, and Italian, which, with my Swiss servant*

* However excellent and faithful European servants may be at home, their utility is so much diminished by their ignorance of Oriental languages, and by the ill-humour with which they often submit to the neces-

from Naples, were all the attendants we required. A large, but light chest, with the necessary divisions, ingeniously constructed of split-palm branches, and here called a kafass, had been previously purchased, and furnished with the requisite culinary utensils, our tea and dinner equipage, together with a provision of tea, coffee, and sugar, wine, rice, maccaroni, potatoes, and biscuits. We likewise took our camp beds, and on the following morning our baggage was sent on board.

The author of Anastasius remarks, that in Egypt the fluctuations of the Nile form the only topic of conversation, and engross the whole attention of the people. At present, however, the recent successes of Ibrahim Pasha, and the further

sary hardships inevitably imposed by travelling in the east, that natives of the country, with recommendations from the consulate, are much to be preferred.

designs of Mohammed Ali, have superseded every other subject of popular speculation.

It cannot for a moment be doubted that the ruler of Egypt, always a wary, watchful, and selfish politician, has never, from the beginning, confined his ambitious projects within the limits originally assigned him by his Turkish master. That in energy of mind, and in the comprehensiveness of his views, he far surpasses all other Eastern sovereigns, is universally admitted; nor is it less certain that he has long been an object of jealousy to the Porte, and on more occasions than one has adroitly slipped his neck from the Turkish bowstring. Actuated, however, by no motive but self-interest, and deeply imbued with the sordid, narrow principles of Oriental policy, he is utterly reckless of the happiness or misery of his degraded subjects.

Endowed by nature with an active spirit of inquiry, and gifted with an extraordinry share of

sagacity, he has burst the shackles of Moslem bigotry and intolerance, and has become, by long intercourse with Europeans, the most enlightened of Mussulman rulers. Improvements and regulations of high importance have in consequence been introduced into his government, but hitherto they have principally tended to secure within his own grasp the profit of European commercial intercourse, and to enable him by the strength of his military and naval establishments to repel any attempt to interfere with his plans.

To aggrandize and enrich himself, and to perpetuate these advantages to his family, have been the paramount objects of his life. Hence the universal monopolies that he has established, heedless of the national benefit or injury they may be calculated to produce;—hence the enormous revenue that he extorts, regardless of the misery its exaction inflicts upon an impoverished population;—and hence the intimidating attitude

he has long assumed,—ready to spring forth whenever opposition should rouse him from his lair. Thus nothing is too great for his ambition, or too small for his avarice. To such a length, indeed, has this grasping disposition been carried, that the wretched Arabs are restrained from converting even the succulent plants, that grow at their doors, into an article of profitable export; and the very ordure of their camels, which, mixed with mud, forms their only fuel, contributes its tithe to swell the hoards of the pasha.

The possession of the surface of the soil throughout the whole country has been resumed, as an appanage of the government, acquired by right of conquest; and every capacious and well-constructed edifice, wherever it may be situated, is either a government store, or a government manufactory. Thus all belongs to the government,—and the go-

vernment is the pasha;—the people are mere appendages to the soil,—their labour and their lives equally subject to his arbitrary will.—Like the Israelites of old,—groaning under the burden, and smarting under the lash,—their resources are unfeelingly diminished, and yet they are compelled to supply the insatiable demands of an inexorable taskmaster.

That Egyptian civilisation advances is evidenced by the excessive taxation with which every thing tangible is loaded, so that a reward might safely be offered for the suggestion of a new and profitable impost; and as arbitrary power knows no bounds, the lord of the soil *compels* the cultivation of such articles, and such only, as will be most profitable to himself;—purchases the produce at a price fixed by his own agents,—shuts his warehouses till the the state of the market is satisfactory—and then sells for his own individual advantage.—Only

last year, when a general scarcity prevailed, and the pasha's granaries were overflowing, no corn was allowed to be issued until largely mixed with what was damaged and unwholesome; and this, retailed at an extravagant price, the people were compelled by necessity to consume.—Thus every thing finds its way into the storehouses and coffers of the "magnanimous" pasha—the proprietor of the soil—the monopolizing merchant—the exclusive manufacturer—the possessor of all.

Our stay at Alexandria now drew to a close; and although our visit had been short, and the town and neighbourhood in themselves present few objects of interest or attraction, yet the cordiality with which we had been received, the attention we had experienced, and the readiness universally manifested to communicate information—all combined to throw a shade of melancholy over the eve of our departure. The un-

certainty also in which a state of warfare necessarily involved our future movements in Syria, and the impossibility of further communicating with our far distant friends until our return to Egypt, were little calculated to dissipate gloomy impressions. All, however, was prepared, and we determined to sail with the first fair wind.

CHAPTER VIII.

Embark for Syria—Land at Tripoly—Military preparing to join Ibrahim Pasha at Homs—Capuchin Convent—The British Consul—Interview with the Governor—French Religious Enthusiast—Generalissimo of the Sacred Forces at the Approaching Millennium — Historical Notices of Tripoly — Commercial Capability—Egyptian occupation favourable to Christian Inhabitants—Curious Interior of House —Arrival of the Alfred Frigate—Embarrassing Intelligence of the prevalence of the Plague in Palestine.

We embarked, as we intended, on Friday, June 29th, for Tripoly; but before I proceed to satisfy your curiosity relative to the present state of Damascus, which you will be pleased to know that we reached in safety, I must refer to my journal, and relate to you some of the adventures

that befel us by the way. About noon we quitted the harbour of Alexandria, with a fair wind, which favoured us without intermission during the whole voyage. Our trim little vessel sailed admirably, and the only inconveniences we suffered were from the constant sea sickness of our Greek servant, and the sudden and unexpected insolence of the Swiss,—the latter the natural consequence of the new position in which he was placed by having extra duties to perform, and the more annoying as there was now no possibility of dismissing or replacing him.

On Monday, July 2nd, at day-break, we saw the coast of Syria, but both wind and waves were more like those of our own northern regions than the smooth seas and gentle gales which we had supposed at this season generally to prevail in more genial climates. As our vessel approached the coast, we came within view of several low, rocky islands,—some of

them picturesque, and of considerable dimensions. Among these, which we afterwards ascertained to be only inhabited by a few solitary fishermen, we vainly endeavoured to distinguish the celebrated isle, once the seat of the rich and flourishing city of Aradus.* This remarkable place, at one period a second Tyre, was, like that city, long indebted to its insular position for escaping the ravages of the barbarian invaders of the surrounding countries—but so disproportioned was the town to its crowded population, that here, and here only, according to historic record, an inhabitant who raised a new edifice was allowed to place it on the top of another. Modern travellers have examined with admiration the stupendous walls that served at the same time to protect the city against the inroads of the enemy, and the encroachment of the sea.

As we drew towards land, we remarked five

* The Arvad of Scripture and the Rooad of the Arabs.

or six square towers, now greatly dilapidated, that once guarded the coast. Although the islands we passed afford shelter from the south-west wind, there being no harbour the road-stead is entirely open to the north. We anchored at some distance from the shore, and dispatched our Greek interpreter, in a boat to seek the English consul, and to request his assistance in arranging the accommodation we required. From twenty-five to thirty small vessels were near us at anchor, one of which bore Italian colours; and two Egyptian sloops were cruising within sight; while, to the right, two small vessels on the stocks were not more than half completed.

We landed at El Mina, a little detached town close to the sea, at the distance of two or three miles from Tripoly. It has several small streets, a bazaar, and a long range of buildings, with handsome arched gate-

ways opposite the landing-place. The latter had been originally a khan for the reception of merchandise, but was now filled by a detachment of Ibrahim Pasha's troops, busily employed in making preparations for marching in the evening to join him at Homs. We, of course, eagerly inquired for news, and were told that he was judiciously concentrating his forces in the neighbourhood of that town, where it was generally believed he would bring the enemy to a decisive engagement. Several battalions had already left Tripoly for Homs, and others were about to depart. In numerical force he was represented as being inferior to his adversaries, but greatly their superior in discipline and courage. We were also told, that the orderly conduct of his troops, together with the novelty of their abstaining from plunder, and paying for the supplies they required, excited a general wish that the country might never again be subjected to

the galling and rapacious sway of its former masters.

To the left of the town scattered parties of cavalry, well mounted, and handsomely accoutred, were manœuvring and galloping over the sands; while groups of soldiers might every where be seen purchasing their little stores, or packing their scanty baggage. The fear of forcible impressment by the military at first deterred the inhabitants from supplying us with animals to proceed to the town; but at length our packages placed on mules, and ourselves mounted on asses, we set forward, encountering at every step straggling soldiers hastening to the port. We now passed for more than a mile along a wide road, bordered for the most part on each side with inclosures of fruit trees, when reaching the city gate, we met the governor with a train of horsemen coming out—a hard-featured, surly-looking Turk, who scarcely deigned to cast a look at us as he rode along.

We advanced into the town through two or three tolerably wide streets, consisting of stone houses of two stories, originally well-built, but in various stages of decay. Every thing here looked desolate and cheerless—scarcely a living soul was to be seen;—a ruined fountain now and then proved that it was once well supplied with water, and piles of rubbish, apparently of long-standing, were heaped in every vacant space.

By the consul's direction we sought the Capuchin convent, situated in a narrow alley, and barricadoed with strong doors, but inhabited only by a single monk, a native of Piedmont. Two respectably furnished rooms, in one of which were a few books, together with a little terrace covered with vines, were reserved for his own use, and afforded a more spacious and comfortable accommodation than is usually found in monastic establishments. A poor Christian family, and a Levantine traveller, tenanted some small cham-

bers that overlooked the garden; we could therefore only obtain one large, dreary room, lighted by several small unglazed windows close to the lofty ceiling;—its only furniture a heap of rubbish in a corner, and a cumbrous wooden divan, without even the luxury of a mat to cover it. The good father, however, supplied us with a rickety table, and two superannuated chairs;—grumbling inquiries whether another lodging could be obtained proved fruitless, so we decided upon making ourselves content, and ordered our beds to be put up. Fortunately, we had the advantage of a garden thickly planted with fruit trees, in which was a reservoir of water containing fish, while a spreading pergola* of vines, impervious to the sun, answered the purpose of an agreeable eating-room. As gardening was the chief amusement of our solitary host, this little

* A species of rural portico covered with vines, or other trailing plants.

plot of ground was kept in excellent order, although it often suffers from the rancorous avarice of his Moslem neighbours, who sometimes cut off his supply of water, as they did while we were there, for the avowed purpose of extorting money to have it restored.

While taking our evening meal, beneath the shade of the pergola, we received a visit from the English consul, who proffered us every civil attention, and invited us to dinner at noon the next day. His opinion confirmed our previously-formed plan of crossing Mount Lebanon to Balbec, on our way to Damascus; then taking another direction across the same ridge of mountains to Bairoot on our return; and, after traversing the coast, and visiting St. Jean d'Acre, Mount Carmel, and Jaffa, to go on to Jerusalem.

At ten the next morning we waited upon the governor, who had once before held the same

station, but, proving refractory, had been driven from the service of his Turkish master, and was restored to his former command by Mohammed Ali, when the town fell into his hands. We were received at first with a certain air of haughtiness and constraint, as if we had interrupted more important business. His audience chamber was large and mean. A part of the floor, raised by a step, and separated by a wooden rail, was surrounded with a shabby divan, on the left side of which he was sitting, and opposite to him knelt three secretaries busily writing. The lower division was filled with a rabble of ill-dressed retainers, who instantly thronged to the rail, and listened with eagerness to all that was going forward.

Our Greek servant—his hands crossed on his breast, and his eyes directed to the ground—now commenced his duty as dragoman, by showing the firmaan of Mohammed Ali. This the governor ap-

plied to his lips and forehead, and then attentively examined, although it was evident that he was incapable of reading a single word. When asked if the road was safe through Balbec to Damascus, and if we might pursue our journey without fear, he assumed a thoughtful, suspicious look, and shook his head; but on being told that we had the pasha's express permission to visit that city, he ordered our firmaan to be read to him by one of his secretaries. His countenance now cleared up, and he immediately assured us that he would be answerable for our safety, and would send with us a military attendant of his own, whose presence alone would be a sufficient protection. Coffee and a pipe were then presented, some common-place inquiries answered, and we speedily bowed ourselves out of his august presence.

At the consul's table, at noon, we met two military instructors on their way to Homs, and

an eccentric Frenchman, who for several years has inhabited Syria. This extraordinary man, after holding a high command in India, returned to France with a handsome competency. His enthusiastic ardour, excited by the temptation of commercial gain, impelled him, however, to embark his whole fortune in an ill-judged adventure, which terminating disastrously, at once destroyed the advantages of the past and the hopes of the future—his mind at the same time receiving a shock that happily subsided into a harmless species of religious monomania. In India, among the native chiefs, his career had been brilliant; and, now mingling together the exalted views and confident expectations of the St. Simonians and Millennarians, he believed himself destined to forward the permanent establishment of "Peace on earth, and good-will towards men." Filled with religious fervour, he hastened to Syria—the Bible his only companion—

his sole occupation to interpret mystically its predictions and precepts. Here he discovered that long and deep-felt oppression had given birth to an indistinct but general notion of supernatural deliverance. He then announced the approach of the millennium,—proclaimed the immediate manifestation of a divine messenger—avowed himself the heaven-appointed "generalissimo" of the sacred forces, and declared that "power would be given him at the new advent to destroy the beast and the false prophet—to establish universal empire—and to make Jerusalem its principal seat."

On all other points this philanthropic enthusiast is rational and intelligent. He wanders from place to place—lives the life of an Arab—is a frequent visitor to the different consuls, and is supposed to partake largely of the bounty of Lady Hester Stanhope—whom he often engages in long and learned controversies, in which their

conflicting opinions neither disturb their own harmony, nor seem likely to interfere with that of the world.

During dinner we saw nothing of the ladies of the family, as the custom of living and eating apart continues to be strictly observed by the Christians in Syria. But a walk afterwards with the consul, through the environs of the town, gave us an opportunity of remarking and admiring its agreeable position.

Tripoly, now called by the inhabitants Trabalos, is finely placed at the foot of Mount Lebanon, where it gradually slopes to the sea. The origin of this town, and its ancient name, *Tripolis*, are referred in history to the circumstance of three cities founded by the neighbouring states of Tyre, Sidon, and Aradus, being so placed that they were encircled by the same rampart. After submitting to Alexander, and falling into the hands of the Se-

leucidæ and the Ptolemies, it was subjugated by Antiochus, and finally annexed by Pompey to the Roman dominions. Rich and flourishing when severed from the Greek empire by the Moslems in the seventh century, it still retained its opulence and prosperity under the Khalifs of Egypt, when it was assailed by the first band of crusaders, (A. D. 1099,) on their advance to the holy city, after the capture of Antioch. The adjacent territory, populous, highly cultivated, and then filled with sugar-canes, that have since disappeared, excited the cupidity of these furious zealots. Raymond de Toulouse, who had heroically encountered the Moslems in Spain, desirous of securing for himself this valuable district, approached the town, and defeated the forces brought forward to oppose him. Stores of gold and provisions, however, purchased present security. But a few years later this celebrated chief inflicted on Tripoly all the horrors of a protracted siege, in the course of which he

died, and the town finally surrendered to his son. Possession obtained, the conquerors treacherously violated their engagements—massacred their disarmed opponents—and in their ignorant zeal destroyed a fine library that it contained. It was then conferred on the vanquisher as a fief under the newly-established crown of Jerusalem, and several of his descendants bore the title of counts of Tripoly. At the close of these insane inroads, (A. D. 1291,) the fortifications of this stronghold, nearly the last that submitted, were, with precautionary prudence, razed to the ground.

Inclosures of vines, mulberry, orange, pomegranate, and olive-trees every where embower the present contracted limits of the town. The river Kadesha, a rapid mountain stream, flows through it, in a wide rocky channel, over which two bridges have been constructed. It has still the appearance of having once been flourishing and well-built, but with the negligence

characteristic of an oppressed people, and which invariably marks every place where Mussulman power prevails, no nuisance is removed, or tottering edifice repaired. Thus every thing looks dismantled and decayed, as if the semblance of poverty were the only security against extortion and outrage.

Bazaars, narrow, gloomy, and of great length, are well stocked with ordinary goods,—small trades are industriously carried on in the streets, and as the neighbouring district produces much silk, of an excellent quality, most of the inhabitants are employed in weaving the long, striped sashes, so generally worn in Mohammedan countries. The commerce of this place is said to be exclusively in the hands of Christians, who are, for the most part, either of the pure Greek communion, and are then called, by their Christian brethren, schismatics; or, acknowledging the supremacy of the sovereign pontiff, they form what are called the Latin con-

gregations. Sixteen thousand is the estimated population of the town, and nearly a third are said to be Christians. In the surrounding country, the great majority of inhabitants belong to the Maronite* communion. Notwithstanding they differ in some points from the Catholics, they are still within the pale of the church, and are allowed to exercise the rational privilege of using a liturgy, partly in Syriac, and partly in Arabic, their vernacular language.

There is also another conventual establishment, much superior in appearance to the one that afforded us such indifferent accommodation. The house is large and in tolerable repair, and was occupied by Egyptian officers when Ibrahim's troops took possession of the town. One Italian monk is now the only inmate; but there seems little cordiality between the members of the sacred brotherhood; for we did not discover that there was a second convent, where we might

* See note at the end of the volume.

have been more commodiously lodged, until the day before we left the place. Several French families settled here are engaged in various branches of the silk manufacture, and it is their opinion, that if an export market could be obtained, an active and profitable commerce in the raw material might easily be established. Sponges, also, are abundant on the coast, of which the English consul received a cargo during the time of our stay.

Hitherto, in this misgoverned country, industry and production have never been encouraged, although the fertility of the adjacent valleys would supply not only silk, but other valuable produce in great abundance; and their copious streams might easily be applied to every kind of useful machinery. From neglect, or careless irrigation, the neighbourhood of the town is marshy, and consequently unwholesome; but this evil might easily be remedied by a system of drainage judiciously arranged.

The apparent elevation of Mount Lebanon, as seen from the ocean, is much less than might reasonably be expected from its ascertained height. An unequal series of mountainous ridges extend their ample bases as far as the eye can reach. Many of the lower declivities seem to have been rent asunder by some great natural convulsion; and thus yellow and red strata, curiously varied, and fantastically bent, are frequently exposed.

The height of Mount Lebanon is said to be nine thousand five hundred and thirty-five feet above the level of the sea, which, although fourteen hundred feet lower than Mount Etna, is more than twice the height of Ben Nevis, (4,370,) the most elevated point in the British dominions. A line of snow therefore marks its highest summit. The recesses of this mountain, rich in mineral productions, deserve to be carefully examined. Near the sea, the dislocated strata have almost every where a deep cha-

lybeate tinge, and compact nodules of iron ore are of frequent occurrence. Specimens of excellent pit coal are found in the neighbourhood of Bairoot: but neither the extent nor depth of the beds, which are known to exist there, have been yet ascertained. Other metallic ores are also found in various parts of this mountainous district.

Tripoly once constituted a separate and extensive Turkish pashalic, but was afterwards united to that of Saidee; and now, like the other towns in the hands of Mohammed Ali, is under the command of a military governor. At the commencement of the siege of Acre it yielded to a detachment of troops sent by Ibrahim Pasha to secure the defenceless towns on the coast. The fugitive governor, collecting a considerable force, afterwards endeavoured to regain possession of the place. But Ibrahim speedily advanced, repulsed the assailants, and relieved the town. At the command of the sultan, new levies were made by the

pashas of other districts, and the Turkish vassals seemed for a moment inspired with fresh courage. The undaunted Ibrahim, although inferior in strength, boldly encountered, and gallantly defeated them. Consternation now spread through the country;—the Arab troops, animated with new ardour, and proud of their victorious leader, believed themselves to be invincible, and openly avowed their contempt for their humbled adversaries. Should Tripoly remain in the possession of its present ruler, which the Christian inhabitants heartily desire, his sagacity and enterprise will soon lead to a judicious examination of these valuable districts, and to the promotion, ere long, of such commercial, and perhaps manufacturing establishments, as may be likely to assist in recruiting the exhausted resources of his Egyptian territory.

A large fortress, on a lofty eminence, has

the imposing appearance of a European baronial castle, and was built by the crusaders during the long period that they possessed Tripoly; but although it commands the town, it is itself overlooked by a superior height. We were not permitted to examine the interior, now occupied by Egyptian troops; but externally it bore evident marks of neglect and decay. Another elevated point gave a fine prospect over a considerable part of the town, where the wide channel of the descending river that intersects it, the minarets by which it is embellished, and the adjacent country, covered with groves, gardens, and verdure, greet the eye with a delicious landscape.

On the third day of our arrival we began to make preparations for continuing our journey. We engaged two good horses for ourselves, and two others for our servants, that could take also some of our baggage; with a couple of sumpter

mules, and the necessary attendants on foot. We were likewise to be accompanied by Sulieman, the governor's janissary, suitably mounted —a somewhat important personage, and bearing the title of hadjee, in consequence of having made four times the pilgrimage to Mekka.

On calling upon the English consul,* we saw, for the first time, his mother and sister;—the former tall, and with many remains of waning beauty; and the latter, a fine young woman, but rather upon a large scale. Both had dark eyes

* Signor Cassifflis. His father long held the same office, and was well known and respected throughout the Levant. His brother is Sardinian consul, and both reside with their mother and sister. On the walls of their sitting-room many names of English and other European travellers are inscribed; some of them dated in the last century, and one so distant as 1702. The royal arms, that conspicuously decorate consular houses, are here those of George the First. No salary is attached to the situation.

and fair complexions, untinged with the slightest colour. They were dressed in the Levantine costume, with massive gold necklaces and bracelets, circular pieces of gold strung round their foreheads, and similar ornaments attached to the long and numerous plaits of hair, which spread over their shoulders. The necklace of the younger lady was similar to some ancient specimens of Greek art that I had previously seen. It consisted of a long row of twisted and curved gold pendants, resembling cornucopiæ, thickly strung together, and was of Smyrna manufacture. In walking about the house, both wore the high, ponderous, Syrian clogs, inlaid with mother of pearl, that raised them nearly a foot from the floor. Their robes, full and flowing, were of plain materials, but the exposure of the bosom had an unbecoming effect.

The consul's house was the first good example I had seen of the interior of a Syrian mansion.

On remarking its peculiarity, the proprietor explained, that it had once been the hareem, or ladies' apartment, of a governor's residence; and although its arrangements had been somewhat altered to suit the present proprietors, yet there was no difficulty in making out the original plan. It consisted of an upper floor, the access to which was from a dirty, dull court, by an awkward, outside staircase. On the right, near the top, was a separate room, probably destined for attendants. A door to the left opened into a large hall, floored with compartments of coloured marble, in the centre of which was an octagon fountain of similar workmanship, that poured forth a liberal supply of water. The roof, a lofty and well-proportioned dome, was every where ornamented with circular, convex portions of various-coloured glass, producing the happiest effect. This dome was supported by four wide, gothic arches, each forming an entrance to a

large square recess, or rather separate apartment, the floor of which was raised about a foot and a half above that in the centre. One of these, still reserved for state occasions, was matted, and surrounded with a divan. It was lighted, like the others, by a large grated window, without glass, and still higher were on every side smaller windows to catch the breeze, from whatever quarter it might blow, while heavy shutters excluded at pleasure the rays of the sun. The walls above the divan were ornamented with vertical rows of prettily-figured tiles, and over the doors were small painted compartments, in the style of the chintzes of India; while the space beneath the windows was filled up with a sort of mosaic combination of irregular pieces of white marble, precisely similar to many specimens found at Pompeii. In one corner a small wooden staircase led to a gallery, and to some upper chambers; and a door opposite the principal en-

trance opened into a square court, and probably communicated with another suite of rooms.

A general hoisting of consular flags, in the evening, gave notice that a British ship of war was approaching the coast. This proved to be the Alfred; and Captain Maunsel, on landing, considerately informed us that he had not thought it prudent to touch at Bairoot, on account of the plague, which had lately appeared there; adding, that this dreadful scourge was making great ravages at Nazareth, and spreading rapidly throughout Palestine.

CHAPTER IX.

Deceptions practised by Muleteers—Curious scene in the street—Quit Tripoly with a picturesque Caravan—Mount Lebanon—Convents of Antoura and St. George—Halt at Noon—Visited by the Son of a Maronite Sheick—Miserable Church of Khemi Taboory—Toilsome travelling on rugged mountain roads—Sleep at the Village of Hadeed—Deceived by the falsehood of Guides—The Cedars and the Village of Eden—Many of the inequalities of Lebanon clothed with Cedars—Frightful and dangerous descent—Arrive in the secluded Valley of Liamoony.

On Thursday, the 5th of July, we were fully prepared to leave Tripoly by four in the morning, according to orders previously given; but five o'clock came, and nearly six, before either men

or animals made their appearance. At length they were announced, and the baggage taken below, but when nearly loaded, we discovered, that two horses shown us yesterday were not forthcoming, and of those now provided, one only was furnished with a saddle, or deserved that distinction; while the others, miserable hacks, were equipped with pack-saddles, without even the convenience of cord for stirrups. Here began the difficulties that had been prognosticated;—the excuses, the artifices, the falsehoods, that were resorted to, were as ingenious as they were impudent; and with such attempts at imposition, we were told, we should now have constantly to contend. Our janissary stoutly backed all that was asserted. He declared that the military had completely stripped the town of horses and mules;—that even those now produced, the governor, with great difficulty, had obtained by force:—and yet only last night the sanctimonious

hadjee assured us that there was no scarcity of either, and two good horses, well caparisoned, were actually brought to us for approbation, tried, and accepted. Angry discussions, recriminations, and menaces, now went round the whole circle; and, as all this took place in the street, we were, of course, annoyed with a crowd of spectators. A threat was then held out of appealing to the governor; and to propitiate his interference, application was actually made to the consul. By means of the latter, however, a compromise was at last concluded—the janissary gave up his horse to my companion—I took the one intended for him;—and thus we set forth, at seven o'clock instead of four, on a long day's journey over the mountains.

As we gained the skirts of the town, we perceived a numerous assemblage, some on horseback, but more on foot, waiting to bring up our rear; and on crossing a cemetery, and mounting

a gentle ascent, they took their places, and made up no contemptible caravan. Our fellow-travellers,—principally military attendants, conducting spare horses and baggage to Homs,—with a few unarmed soldiers, and other stragglers, going to join the troops at that place,—often, as we threaded the circuitous mountain-paths, added to the picturesque beauty of the ever-varying scenery we passed through. In pursuing our journey, we soon mounted a steep acclivity, but ere long again descended, and forded the river that washes the town. This stream we accompanied for some time, through a highly-cultivated valley, bordered on each side with ridges of towering rocks. Thus far the road was tolerably good, and the eminences we passed over frequently commanded fine views of the mountains, and of the sea. At the end of four or five hours, almost always ascending, we skirted the edge of a deep ravine on our

left, the opposite side of which was formed by naked cliffs, rising apparently with inaccessible abruptness almost to the summit of the mountain. Here, niched in among perpendicular crags, we saw, on the other side of the ravine, a convent, like an impregnable fortress, capacious, straggling, and strongly-built, but in what manner accessible, whether from above or below, we could not conjecture; for, situated a third of the way up the mountain, and resting apparently on naked rocks, no trace of a road was visible. This, we were told, was the convent of Antoura, and on the summit of the same mountain we remarked another large building, which our conductor likewise informed us was the convent of St. George.

A little beyond this place, soon after mid-day, we quitted the road, invited by the shade of a spreading oak, and the vicinity of water, to make our meal, and permit our wearied animals to repose. Here our companions of the caravan

were peremptorily commanded to go forward, our mules unloaded, our carpets spread, and every preparation made for rest and refreshment. Our kafass was now opened, its contents put in immediate requisition, and the preparatory arrangements made for an acceptable repast. While these were advancing, we discovered, that close to the spot we had selected, was a miserable hovel of loose stones, half buried in the earth; and through an opening, on one side, that admitted light, we observed an altar, the only indication that instead of being a cattle-shed, this wretched edifice was actually designed for Christian worship. A few humble graves were in fit companionship with these tottering walls, but so carelessly made, that a human skull had been washed bare by the rains.

Here, while reposing in the shade, and enjoying the splendid and extensive prospect, we were joined by a tall young man, who

had, probably, seen us from below. He wore the short, red, Syrian jacket, over a long vest of striped silk—a large white turban—the usual crimson and yellow sash—a handsome sabre, and full white trowsers;—and was well mounted, with a *sais*, or groom, who carried his gun. He entered immediately into conversation with our janissary and dragoman, the former of whom courteously conceded to him the pipe he was smoking. After a gracious salutation, we soon discovered that there was no language in common between us. Pointing to myself, I said "Inglese;" to which he replied, "Christianos, *taib*, *taib*," (*good*, *good*,) patting me at the same time good-naturedly on the shoulder, and repeating, "Christianos," while he pointed to himself.

Our dragoman informed us, that he was the son of a neighbouring Maronite sheick, whose jurisdiction extended over three villages

in the adjoining valley. He noticed, with much curiosity, the contents of our kafass, and asked for a wax candle, with great earnestness, as a gift for the church. Observing that I carried a flask across my shoulder, he requested to taste some of the brandy it contained, which he drank with much relish. I then begged him to write his name in my note-book, but he preferred inserting the name of the place where we met. This, written in Arabic, with Syriac letters, and afterwards translated, proved our meeting to have taken place at "the church of Khemi Taboory, on the side of the mountain, near which flows the river Booali."

His easy familiarity, and the curiosity he very naturally evinced to examine the various and novel objects that our little encampment displayed were so opposite to the punctilious coldness and haughty indifference which constitute Turkish politeness, that fearing his visit might

become troublesome, no inducement was held out to him to lengthen his stay. Our dinner, in the meantime, being served at a little distance, we unceremoniously began to eat, and in the course of our repast the young stranger mounted his steed, and disappeared.

At the conclusion of our meal we imprudently lingered too long on this charming spot. The side of the mountain on our left offered an excellent specimen of the coloured strata I had already remarked. It would seem as if, riven by some violent concussion, the earth had opened, and exposed to view the various strata exhibited by the ravine, and these, arranged in a somewhat circular form, and extending to the very summit of the mountain, surpassed in brilliancy and variety of colour all I had previously observed. Having remained here at least three hours, we resumed our journey, and our road soon became more steep and rugged, as it passed over moun-

tainous elevations, divided by valleys of inconsiderable width. These ascents and declivities were often tremendous; the narrow mule track—a mere rocky channel, full of inequalities, and often obstructed with loose stones—wound here and there among huge projections of rock, and not unfrequently directly over them, so that it seemed miraculous that our own horses, and more so, that our heavily charged mules, maintained their footing.

A little before sunset we passed a village and a small church. This I hoped was to have been our resting-place,—but we still went on, regardless of the courteous signs of invitation made by some respectable-looking people, who were watching near a house the treading out of corn. For another hour we climbed the side of a mountain, by a narrow path,—often broken,—on the brink of a deep, bushy glen, and about nightfall arrived at a spring, shaded by a magnificent

tree, where our attendants proposed to wait till morning. This was strenuously resisted, the distance of three hours, which they asserted to be that of the nearest village, disbelieved, and the muleteers were at length compelled, by threats, to proceed. It now became evident that they were unacquainted with the road; but, at least, for a time we had the benefit of the moon, and we were informed, by two men whom we met, that some inhabitants of the village where we intended to sleep had not long preceded us. We now quitted the edge of the ravine, and after a toilsome ascent, which was succeeded by a frightful declivity, had another height to climb, and then to wind round the top of a hill, where, fortunately, we overtook our promised guides. The moon had now disappeared—again we had to ascend;—the road, indeed, was less steep, but every where encumbered with large stones, or broken into chasms

and gulleys, which the darkness of the night made it difficult to avoid. Here it was impossible to ride, nor could we have kept the track had we not been guided by the peasants we had luckily overtaken. This, our last and greatest difficulty, surmounted, our way became more smooth, and the baying of the watch-dogs of the village, which we soon heard, fell like delicious music on the ear.

Thus, in six hours after leaving Khemi Taboory, we reached the village of Hadeed, where, from the lateness of the hour, we had at first some difficulty to find a lodging. At length we were allowed to rest our tired limbs under an open shed, attached to a long, low habitation, the farthest extremity of which afforded a similar shelter to cattle. At this village we saw the first division of our caravan, lying in the open air, asleep on the ground. The people who received us seemed frank, kind-hearted, and

obliging. They cheerfully supplied us with excellent milk and butter; and, while tea was preparing, I watched the process of baking, in which the females of the family were engaged. The oven was circular, and probably of coarse pottery, as it had precisely the shape of a capacious jar, enclosed in masonry, with the mouth upwards, and a fire beneath. It had been already heated, and two women were busily employed in sticking thin cakes of dough upon the sides, which were soon sufficiently baked, and replaced by others. They were greatly amused at the novelty of my European dress, which I had not yet thrown off, and repaid with a hot cake, the good-natured laugh they indulged at my expense.

Overpowered with fatigue, our beds were speedily unpacked, and spread upon a platform, which extended the whole length of the shed,—

and although the mountain air felt keen after the sultry atmosphere of the coast, I slept soundly till day-break, when the stir of surrounding people interrupted my slumber.

Unaccustomed as we were to mountain travelling, our preparations for departure the next morning went on slowly, and this gave time for a solitary ramble through the village. We had first, however, a concourse of diverted spectators to witness the wondrous process of our hastily-made toilet. Before this was concluded, I heard with astonishment "the sound of the church-going bell." Such was my surprise, that I thought my ears had deceived me, but I was not long in discovering, at a little distance, a large and decently-built church, with a single bell in a small turret, for in the district of Lebanon, and there only, the use of bells is permitted to Christians.

The village of Hadeed is situated on the southern declivity of the mountain we had ascended. The houses, or rather low huts, rudely constructed of stone, have flat roofs, and are coarsely plastered within. The only light is from the door, and each house, together with an adjoining shed for cattle, stands within a small cultivated enclosure. On passing through the yard where we slept, I perceived that I was walking on the roof of another habitation, and saw others that were still lower. In a small valley beneath, both pasture and tillage were distinguishable, intermingled with rows of mulberry and other fruit trees. On the level surface of the top of the mountain, I found the church in the midst of a cemetery, and perceived that the morning service had begun. The congregation was small,—there was a grated division for women, and several altars decorated with pictures and tapers. The other part of the church,

with bare walls, and a naked timber roof, looked cold and cheerless.

At six o'clock we again set forward, and passing near the church, the priest, a venerable old man, with a flowing beard, was standing on the threshold, and courteously saluted us. Our road, somewhat better than yesterday, continued gradually to rise, and we were now fairly within that long elevated chain which has borne, from the earliest ages, the name of Lebanon. We had felt a great anxiety to see the celebrated cedars, which are supposed to be the remains of the ancient forests that once entirely clothed these heights. Hitherto we had been allured forward by our guides, with the promise of soon reaching them, but we now discovered that we had been purposely deceived, and ought to have taken another road, in which case the village of Eden, in their immediate vicinity, would have afforded us a more commodious halt-

ing place.* Why, contrary to our wishes, our conductors had chosen the present route, we

* As our expectations of seeing the cedars and Eden were so vexatiously frustrated, I gladly supply the deficiency with the aid of an interesting diary, which the kindness of a friend has placed at my disposal.

After leaving Balbec, and approaching Lebanon, towering walnut-trees, either singly or in groups, and a rich carpet of verdure, the offspring of numerous streams, give to this charming district the air of an English park, majestically bounded with snow-tipped mountains. At Deir el Akmaar the ascent begins—winding among dwarf oaks, hawthorns, and a great variety of shrubs and flowers. After some hours of laborious toil, a loaded horse slipped near the edge of a precipice, and must inevitably have perished, if a servant, with great presence of mind, had not cut the girths and saved the animal, at the expense of most of the stores, and the whole of the crockery. Vain were the lamentations over fragments of plates and glasses, broken bottles, and spilt brandy and wine, in an impoverished country, where nothing that contributes to comfort can be replaced.

could never ascertain, unless, perhaps, for the sake of the convoy with which we left Tripoly,

Seven hours were spent in attaining the summit of the mountain after leaving the village. The view on both sides was splendid. — A deep bed of snow had now to be crossed, and the horses sunk or slipped at every moment. To ride was impracticable, and to walk dangerous, for the melting snow penetrated our boots, and our feet were nearly frozen. An hour and a half brought us to the cedars. Seven of the most ancient still remain. They are considered to be coëval with Solomon, and are therefore held sacred. Rude altars have been erected near them, and an annual Christian festival is held, when worship is performed beneath their venerable branches. Other cedars, varying in age and size, form around them a protecting grove. We reckoned every tree with scrupulous care. Many, indeed, have sprung up from ancient roots, but enumerating all that present independent trunks, including the patriarchal trees, they amount to three hundred and forty-three. At a quarter of an hour from the cedars is the village of Beesharry, a lovely, romantic spot, on the brink of a deep glen.

An hour beyond is Eden, a considerable place. I

but it naturally led us to distrust them all, and to regret that we were not better provided with books, maps, and local information.

spent the evening pleasantly, at the house of Sheick Batoos, where I met his cousin Sheick Latoof, and was agreeably surprised by his proficiency in French. These worthy men vied with each other in hospitality and kindness.

Eden is an enchanting spot; and if, as the inhabitants affirm, our first parents were really placed here, how deeply must the repentant Eve have deplored her disobedience, when driven forth among the sterile desolation of the neighbouring heights! Around the village were fine thickets of fruit and forest trees, and crops of walnuts loaded many of enormous size. Several large streams rushed in cascades from the mountains, and winding through the valley, every where clothed it with rich vegetation. The soil is carefully cultivated—the houses are neat and clean, indeed an air of comfort universally prevails.

All the inhabitants of Eden, as well as those of the adjacent villages, are Christians. Seven churches distinguish the town—pigs run in the streets—potatoes grow in the gardens,—and bells toll to summon

In two or three hours we reached, however, the district of cedars, although not of those we had so earnestly sought. At first they occurred sparingly, and of inconsiderable size, but as we advanced they increased in number and magnitude, and at length spread over the sides of all the heights within view. It was impossible not to observe with surprise that we nowhere saw a succession of young ones springing up; but whether this arises from their being destroyed in their tender state by the flocks of goats that are here so numerous, or whether the cones are dispersed and swept away by the tempests and torrents of winter, is a question that I was not able to determine.

the people to devotion. The descent from Eden, of five hours, is steep and rugged.

An hour beyond is the village of Zgarty, and to this the sheicks and the whole population descend when winter commences, and there they remain during the snowy months.

After a ride of five hours we halted in a valley, a little to the right of the road, under some rocks, the only place where water could be obtained. A large flock of goats, tended by two goatherds, were browzing on the side of the mountain, and at a little distance were two rude cabins, something between huts and tents, where probably the families of these solitary wanderers reside. Here our beasts were relieved from their loads, a few sticks were collected to make a fire, and a homely meal prepared.

I had undergone so much fatigue on the previous day that I got up heated and unrefreshed, and afterwards suffered severely from the suffocating closeness of some of the deep, winding valleys through which our course lay. Unable to eat, I crept into a cavity of the rock, and reposed quietly in the shade during the two hours that we remained. We at length proceeded, and soon afterwards began to descend.

Our path again wound gradually round the summit of a mountain, and the subsequent declivity was equally gentle. At the base of the highest elevation we finally quitted the region of cedars. Many of them were of unusually luxurious growth, but they now gave place to tufts of tree honeysuckles, mingled with flourishing hawthorns, and clusters of trailing roses.

We had soon after to descend a frightful steep, where fine plants of rhubarb grew in great abundance, and where, compelled to dismount, we thought the way both tedious and fearful. But this difficulty was trifling when compared with the dangerous descent we had next to make; for the mountain gorge, instead of leading us into the lower level, as we expected, terminated in the dry, stony bed of a winter torrent, which descended with almost perpendicular abruptness into the plain beneath. Here,

our led horses and ourselves retained, with difficulty, an uncertain footing among sand and stones;—while the muleteers hung with their whole weight upon the tails of their loaded beasts, to prevent their falling over, and rolling to the bottom. This perilous pass achieved, we found ourselves in a small valley, every where encompassed by heights, with only one cottage within sight, near a mass of ruins, on the margin of a considerable stream.

Having travelled five hours from our last resting place, and suffered severely from heat, our beds, for security, were arranged on the flat roof of this solitary cabin, where we resigned ourselves unsheltered to repose. The sky was without a cloud;—the muleteers were sitting in a circle round their fire—eating their humble fare;—the disburdened beasts were placed around them—their fore-feet attached together and

pinioned to the ground,—the murmuring of the water deepened the stillness of the night—but overcome with weariness, we soon closed our eyes upon this delicious scene.

CHAPTER X.

Liamoony—Ruined Temple, in a deep valley near a Lake—Probably the celebrated Temple of Aphaca—Cross the Bekaa to Balbec — Temples of Balbec converted into a Fortress by the Moslems—Quarters at the Serai—The three large Temples—The form of the largest that of a Pantheon—Small circular Temple — Balbec taken by the Arabs — Previous flourishing condition — Subsequently pillaged by Timoor.

On the following day I arose with the dawn, completely recruited by a long and quiet sleep, and sallied forth, while breakfast was preparing, to examine the interesting objects by which we were surrounded. The monarch of this solitary domain, for there was only one habitation, called

it Liamoony, which, though not distant from Balbec, is out of the track usually followed by travellers. I now discovered that we had passed the night in a rich, but uncultivated valley, perhaps of two miles in length, by one in breadth, forming a basin, every where closed in by hills. Thirty or forty yards from the cottage a copious stream burst from the gravelly soil, at the entrance of a deep cavern in the side of the mountain we had descended. Near it some large hewn stones seemed, from their position, to have been the foundation of a building, and the cavern itself had the appearance of being at some seasons a channel for water. The stream, after running a short distance, divided into two branches. One rolled on to turn a corn-mill within the hut,—the other encircled a large inclosure, encumbered with ruins, in front of which the uniting branches again became a considerable brook. This stream, at the distance

of a few paces, fell into a small lake without perceptible outlet, its superfluity being either dissipated by evaporation, or finding its way by a subterraneous channel beneath the opposite mountain.

On returning to the ruins, I observed that they were in the centre of an area, forming a square of at least eighty paces across, bounded by a massive wall of well-hewn, and well-placed stones, without mortar. From this external boundary, to which a large ruined gateway gave access, the ground every where rose by a regular ascent, to a mass of fallen materials, resting on a basement elevated by three steps above the adjacent soil. This mass exhibited fragments of Doric columns, pieces of entablature, and many other ponderous stones,—thrown together in a confused heap, apparently by some sudden and violent shock. Here, then, were evidently the remains of an ancient temple;—the portico had

faced the entrance I before noticed, and a wide flight of steps, connecting this entrance with the temple, was half-buried beneath the shattered architrave and broken columns. Every part had been massive, and coarsely executed—the cella had consisted of five or six columns on each side, of large diameter,—the whole completely overthrown,—but from the scattered fragments every where visible, the plan of the edifice, had time permitted, might have been accurately ascertained. The adjoining lake is shallow, and of no great extent, but a wide gravelly strand proves that at some seasons its dimensions are greatly increased.

A structure of such importance placed in a deep and sequestered valley on the margin of a lake, would hardly escape the notice of ancient writers, and as undescribed monuments are known to abound in the less frequented parts of Syria, an attempt to identify even a single

object may at least be useful in directing the attention of future inquirers. Eusebius remarks that between the coast and Heliopolis, (Balbec,) at Aphaca, among the *heights* of Lebanon, near a small lake, was a temple dedicated to "the foul fiend Venus, the seat of licentiousness, and the school of impurity;" and the observant Burchardt believed that a village called Afka, although he could discover near it no sign of a lake, was probably the situation of the fane of Venus. This celebrated temple is said to have been out of the high road,* which accounts as well for its having escaped the notice of Burchardt, as for our passing it in consequence of deviating from the ordinary route. Its situation among the *heights* of Lebanon—the neighbouring lake—and the intermediate position it holds between Balbec and the coast, all combine to

* The direction of an ancient road is seldom changed.

strengthen the conjecture that we had casually ascertained the actual site of the temple of Aphaca.*

The road to Balbec from hence, after skirting the edge of the lake, made a gentle ascent,—and shaded with trees—at the distance of a quarter of an hour from the mill,—passed some mouldering remains of a small square building on the left. Still winding through trees, we soon gained the top of an inconsiderable eminence, and then began to descend. Again we mounted a hill, down which we gradually made our way into the spreading plain where Balbec is situated. This declivity was steep, circuitous, and stony, but became less

* According to Zosimus, it was popularly believed that all offerings made at the shrine of Aphaca, if acceptable to the goddess, sunk, however light, to the bottom of the lake; but, whatever might be their nature and weight, they floated on the surface if displeasing to the divinity. This writer notices the destruction of the temple in the time of Constantine.

abrupt as we approached the bottom, where we passed a large village of huts, built of loose stones. I had no means of discovering the name of this village, but it is not unlikely to be that called by Pocock, "Delehameit." The only individual we saw was a woman who wore, projecting from her forehead, but covered with a blue cotton veil, one of the horns that form so striking a peculiarity in the costume of the Druses. Of this singular species of ornament I had seen one specimen in the village of Hadeed, where an inhabitant having married a Druse, his wife retained her national dress.

As we crossed the first part of the plain, now known by the name of the Bekaa, but anciently called Cælo-Syria, from being situated in the hollow between Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, we saw a numerous peasantry, whose dress and appearance bespoke nothing like oppression or want. Some were getting in the harvest, others

were tending cattle, or watching small troops of camels and horses, and, what was equally new to us, we met now and then, for the first time, with a straggling passenger, by whom we were always civilly saluted, while, from one of the fields we were presented by the reapers with ears of corn. These circumstances lead to the conjecture that the whole of this district belongs to the Druses, but that, unluckily, I omitted to ascertain.

The towering columns of Balbec had been for some time distinctly visible in the distance, rising over a thick cluster of trees, and these were the more conspicuous, as no others appeared in the wide level around. At first we pursued a broad, well-beaten, but rather circuitous track, which followed the course of a deep, dry channel. The soil—cracked into deep fissures, as if produced by the evaporation of water,—had every where the appearance of

being alluvial. It was entirely free from stones, and in one place the bright lilac colour it assumed, was too striking to escape observation. Here, also, I saw a great number of bees hovering above the fissures; but whether their habitations were within, or they sought something to carry away, I could not determine.

After traversing this plain for an hour, we observed, at the distance, perhaps of two hours, to the left, a lofty column standing alone, similar and at least equal in dimensions to Pompey's Pillar at Alexandria. We could neither perceive mounds of earth, heaps of stones, nor other marks of an ancient site in the same direction, and the intense heat, from which we were suffering, deterred us from attempting a closer inspection.*

* Pocock observed a similar column, probably

We now left the wide beaten track we had hitherto followed, which seemed to divide and subdivide into narrow cattle paths, and through these we wound our way, among stubble or fallow fields, without traces of inhabitants, but occasionally with the appearance of having been lately occupied by detachments of cavalry. At length, as we approached the town, every thing put on a sterile aspect, with bare portions of rock sometimes protruding through the soil; until near the walls, we found fields laid out in terraces, for irrigation,—shaded with prodigious walnut-trees,—and every where exhibiting signs of the recent encampment of troops,—while the only living objects we could discover, or had seen for the last hour and a half, were flights of enormous vultures that our arrival disturbed.

the same, situated about two leagues west of Balbec and called by the inhabitants Hamoodiade.

Such is the width of this plain, that it took us nearly three hours to cross, and the whole distance from Liamoony hither was a journey of five hours, although, as we preceded our baggage, we came something faster than our usual pace.

We had long distinguished several colossal columns, rising over high and massive walls; which, as we advanced, exhibited the remains of battlements, and assumed the appearance of a frowning fortress. Our road passed along two sides of this spacious inclosure, and then crossing the Kasmia, a rapid stream, we came within sight of the extensive ruins of the modern town. Here we met two or three well-dressed horsemen, who had probably been superintending the marching of troops. They readily pointed out a Greek convent in the vicinity, near which were groups of soldiers, loaded camels, and other signs of immediate removal. We found that

the slender accommodations usually afforded by this puny establishment were taken up by invalid officers. An Arab serjeant, however, with great civility explained to us, that when Ibrahim's troops took possession of Balbec, the whole of the inhabitants fled from the town.—That he had lately advanced towards Homs, where the enemy was encamped; and that the hospital establishment, the last that remained here, was just departing;—so that the whole town was at our disposal for the choice of a residence. Our new guide then conducted us to some vacant officers' quarters, but deterred by their repulsive condition, he took us to the serai, formerly the abode of the governor, which we found entirely deserted. Here we chose a detached pavilion, once an audience chamber, agreeably situated near a pleasant garden. Our courteous conductor now left us to install ourselves; and although he had brought us from the opposite extremity of the

town, and had quitted his duty to accompany us, he steadily refused the compensation we offered.

Our temporary habitation was a large, square apartment, divided in the centre by a channel of coloured marble, with a handsome fountain of the same material at the farthest extremity. The wainscot, of carved work, divided into compartments, was ornamented with Arabic inscriptions, and other devices, either gilt or fantastically painted red and green. The ceiling, supported by highly-wrought brackets and interlacing beams, was curiously gilt and embossed,—with small pieces of looking-glass, and painted birds ingeniously inserted here and there. Windows and doors abounded on each side,—glazing had been a luxury not indulged in,—most of the shutters were "missing—stolen or strayed,"—nor had the doors entirely escaped the same mishap. The garden,—extensive

and prettily laid out,—into which it opened, was thickly shaded with fruit-trees. Scarcely a branch was broken, although many were loaded with unripe fruit, and it was every where apparent that a body of cavalry had recently been stationed there. Of this praiseworthy disposition to abstain from mischief, we had already met with convincing proofs in the untouched corn-fields we passed. It has seldom, I fear, been emulated in more civilized countries, but affords satisfactory evidence that strict discipline is rigidly enforced among the Egyptian troops. A little beyond our pavilion were two courts, with ranges of low buildings greatly dilapidated, but containing all the requisites for a large establishment.

The magnificent time-worn relics that so conspicuously embellish Balbec, stand, finely grouped, at the south-west extremity of the town, and must therefore be passed by the tra-

veller on his way from the coast. Converted, long subsequent to their first construction, into an extensive fortress, at that period they were either girt by a massive wall, or one that previously existed was heightened and repaired. Battlements were then raised on the summit,—loopholes pierced in the sides,—and towers erected to defend the angles of this impregnable position. These additions, of admirable masonry, often include among their materials broken columns and sculptured fragments. At the north-west corner of the inclosure, several stones have the enormous length and thickness of sixty-two feet by twelve; but the appearance of the wall beneath clearly indicates, that although they may have formed part of the original structure, they owe their present places to after reparation. A deep ditch, easily flooded from the river, is the boundary of this external wall.

Among the crowd of ancient historians who

describe so many inferior structures, it is no less remarkable than it is difficult to explain, why an early Christian writer* only should refer to the origin of august monuments, which, even in their present state of ruinous dilapidation, strike the beholder with admiration and wonder.

Heliopolis, the Greek name of Balbec, and the vicinity of Emessa, now Homs, once celebrated for the worship there paid to the sun, are, as far as I am aware, the only existing grounds for supposing that either of these temples was dedicated to that luminary.† They are of Roman construction, are profusely ornamented, of admirable proportions and workmanship, and

* John of Antioch, who lived in the seventh century, and ascribes the building of one of these temples to Antoninus Pius.

† Lucian and Macrobius both notice the worship of the sun at Heliopolis. John of Antioch, however, who mentions only one temple, says that it was dedicated to Jupiter, and ranked among the wonders of the world.

are said to have replaced others of still higher antiquity.

If size, rather than architectural splendour, be made the criterion, the principal temple must have been that, which consisted of a magnificent portico, and of two capacious, irregular courts,—a form which indicates the building to have been a pantheon, rather than a temple exclusively dedicated to the worship of any single object of pagan superstition; and this conjecture is strengthened by a votive inscription, (DIIS HELIOP.) to the Gods of Heliopolis.

Beyond this spacious ruin, six massive and lofty columns, still entire, once formed part of some proud peristyle, or stately avenue; but, encumbered as they now are with fallen fragments, it is hardly possible to divine their destination, or to estimate their extent.

The third structure, generally considered, but I know not why, as the "Temple of the Sun,"

is of elegant form, and beautiful proportions. It stands on a lofty platform; a superb portico, now destroyed, once decorated the entrance; and a colonnade of Corinthian columns supported the sculptured roof of an open corridor that entirely surrounded it. Fortunately this building has sustained less injury than either of the others;—although the elaborate decorations of all have been purposely and barbarously defaced, and so many of the columns successfully mined and blown up, that it would now be difficult to find one which had not been attempted to be thus displaced. But to whatever deities these temples may have been dedicated, or at whatever period they may have been built, they bear ample testimony to the prosperity and wealth of the city they graced. These important advantages Balbec could only derive from commercial enterprise; and, doubtless, her intermediate situation enabled her largely to partici-

pate in the active and profitable intercourse long maintained with India by the great mercantile cities of the Syrian coast.

Balbec, long subjected, in common with the adjacent countries, to Roman dominion, was the station of a garrison in the reign of Augustus. After the age of Constantine, these noble structures were, probably, consigned to neglect and decay, unless, indeed, as the appearance of the most perfect seems to prove, they were then consecrated to Christian worship.

Oriental writers represent Balbec as a place of importance at the period of the first Arab invasion. They describe it as being then one of the most splendid cities in Syria,—enriched with stately palaces,—adorned with monuments of antiquity, and abounding with trees, fountains, and whatever contributes to luxurious enjoyment. On the advance of the Moslems, it was reported to the Emperor Heraclius as pro-

tected by a citadel of great strength, and capable of sustaining a siege. After the capture of Damascus — regularly invested, and containing an overflowing population, amply supplied with provisions and military stores—it made a courageous defence, but at length capitulated. Its protracted commercial importance is proved by the capture, during the siege, of a caravan, consisting of four hundred loads of silk, sugar, and other valuable merchandise, and by the ransom which was exacted at the taking of the town, of two thousand ounces of gold, and four thousand of silver, two thousand silk vests, and the delivery of a thousand swords, besides the arms of the garrison. As some compensation for this disaster, it afterwards became the mart of the rich pillage of Syria. But its prosperity was transient, for, in A. D. 748, it was sacked and dismantled by the khalif of Damascus, and the principal inhabitants put to the sword.

During the crusades, incapable of making resistance, it seems to have quietly submitted to the strongest. In the year 1400 it was pillaged by Timoor the Tartar, in his progress to Damascus, after he had taken Aleppo; and was afterwards in the possession of the Mootooalies,—a barbarous predatory tribe, nearly exterminated when Djezzar Pasha, permanently subjected the whole district to Turkish supremacy.

CHAPTER XI.

Description of the largest of the Temples at Balbec—Superb Temple believed to have been dedicated to the Sun—Beautiful Portal, and elegant decorations of the Interior—The Greek Convent—Striking Circular Edifice, perhaps a Cenotaph—Ruined and deserted Town of Balbec—Proceed to Damascus over Anti-Lebanon.

As we reached Balbec early in the day, we waited at the Serai until the arrival of our baggage, and then proceeded to take a more particular survey of these vast and sumptuous remains. The splendid portico of the largest of these temples, which I have ventured to conjecture might have

been a pantheon, was entirely closed up by a wall, and intersected by a ditch, when these magnificent edifices were converted into a fortress. It can, therefore, now only be examined by climbing, with difficulty, through an aperture forced in the thickness of the wall. A substructure, consisting of long, arched galleries, supported the whole fabric. These spacious vaults, connected with each other, and built of enormous, well-squared, blocks of stone, I explored in several directions. They were perfectly free from damp, and still used as repositories for grain, with which I saw them plentifully stored.

This temple, thus elevated, at least eighteen or twenty feet above the surrounding level, must necessarily have been supplied with a magnificent flight of steps—of which no vestiges are left—leading up to the portico;—and although the remains of columns are no longer visible, it is not unlikely that an open colonnade formed

the centre of this noble entrance, which terminated at each extremity in a square projecting pavilion, or wing, now in ruins;—the whole, as existing portions prove, richly decorated with cornices and mouldings above,—pilasters in the angles, and others, round the walls, alternating with niches whose circular summits resemble a grooved shell. These wings communicated with the interior of the central colonnade by lofty and finely-wrought arches, one of which is still tolerably entire.—Rent and dismantled, as this portico now is—its area filled with massive fragments, and its front closed by a blank wall—I never beheld a specimen of architecture more effective and imposing.

From this splendid entrance a door-way nearly blocked up, led into the first court, which is of large dimensions, but has suffered so much from barbarian fury, that its present irregular form can only be conjectured to have once been

octagonal. To this succeeds an open quadrangle, oblong, and of still greater extent, surrounded by a series of large recesses, alternately square and circular, which seem designed for separate sanctuaries, all enriched with appropriate architectural decorations, and all profusely ornamented, like every other part of the edifice, with the beautiful niches terminating in the grooved shell. A bold cornice above gives a fine effect to the whole, by forming alternately a semicircular, and a pointed pediment over each recess. In the centre of this court are the remains of a smaller enclosure, or cella, consisting of the sides of a doorway connected with broken portions of walls; and a heap of small granite shafts, piled in a neighbouring corner, were the only columns I saw in the whole edifice. A spacious and highly-ornamented doorway is situated at the right hand extremity of this area; but whether it conducted to some other part of the structure now de-

stroyed, or was a less important entrance from without, the intervention of the external wall makes it difficult to determine.

Immediately behind this temple, but on a somewhat lower level, are the remains of the avenue of colossal columns I before noticed. Of these, the six that retain their original position are crowned with a portion of highly-ornamented entablature. They are of the Corinthian order, and placed on an appropriate basement, which may be traced for a hundred paces in length, and half as many in breadth. The diameter of these superb columns cannot be less than from seven to eight feet, and their height, including the entablature, must be sixty or seventy. In the opposite Saracenic wall, several bases, and some of them still surmounted with wrecks of their enormous shafts, are inclosed in the masonry. Thus, each side of this edifice may have consisted of sixteen or eighteen of

these gigantic columns, and the remains of those still visible in the wall satisfactorily prove the more recent construction of that part of the external boundary. Many others have fallen in various directions, and, mingled with masses of the frieze and architrave they supported, fill up the whole space, vast as it is, with ponderous fragments. Near an angle of the surrounding wall, where there appears to have been a subterraneous descent below, we saw a long Cufic inscription, and heard of another in Arabic, but could obtain no intelligence of the import of either.

At the distance of only a few paces, the last of these commanding edifices is conspicuously placed on a lofty basement, so constructed as to form on every side an easy ascent by regular steps. In length, hastily estimated, this temple cannot be less than from a hundred and fifty to a hundred and sixty feet; while a surrounding

corridor of stately Corinthian columns, of proportionate size and height, gives it the peripteral form so much admired by the ancient Greeks.

Each side originally consisted of fifteen columns,—eight, including those of the angles,—terminated the lower portion of the quadrangular colonnade, and the portico at the opposite end was formed by sixteen, finely fluted and placed in a double row.* The shafts and capitals of all are admirably wrought, and their entablature richly sculptured. They are united to the body of the temple by a highly-ornamented, coved ceiling, beautifully executed in stone, divided into octagonal compartments, each containing a head, or some sculptured figure, surrounded by mouldings, and other elegantly-designed decorations in bas-relief. These sculptures, probably

* This irregularity is accounted for by the portico having a double row of columns. Those of the angles are of course reckoned twice.

mythological, may once have been coloured to render their subjects more distinct,—for their great height does not permit them at present to be easily ascertained. On one that had fallen we observed a female figure suckling an infant, encircled with cornucopiæ and other emblems of fertility.

The portico of this temple has not only been barbarously demolished, but a wall has been raised across it that completely masks the original entrance. To gain access to the interior, it is here also necessary to creep through a narrow opening forced for that purpose; and the vestibule, half filled with rubbish, thus entered, a finely-sculptured doorway, of magnificent dimensions, communicating with the *nave* of the temple, affords a splendid view of its extent and decorations. The tottering condition of this beautiful portal has been produced by a concussion* more destructive than even the

* The earthquake of 1759.

mutilating fury of Moslem fanaticism. The elegant architrave, and the cornice that surrounds it, are richly ornamented with a graceful assemblage of figures, foliage, and fruit. On the inferior surface of the three stones that form the latter, a tufted eagle is sculptured, holding either a caduceus or a thunderbolt in his talons, and sustaining with his beak the ends of two wreaths, whose other extremities are supported by winged genii, hovering in the air. These three stones have been entirely disunited by the force of the shock; but the central one, when it slipped from its place, having been caught in its descent by the lower portions of the two lateral ones, to which it had served as a keystone, hangs below them in a dangerous position, as if the intimidating eagle would still deter intruders from completing its destruction—and this stone, displaced as it is, serves as a wedge to keep the shattered architrave from falling to the ground.

On each side of this doorway, a turret staircase, in the thickness of the partition wall, led to the summit of the building. One is entirely ruined, but a boy crept through a fissure, and ascended to the top of the other.

The splendid decorations of the interior of this temple rival, if not surpass, its external magnificence. Two rows of niches, those below having a circular, and those above a pointed termination, separated by rich flúted pilasters, vary the walls with striking and beautiful effect. A division, indicated by two fluted columns, that stand alone, was probably a sanctuary at the upper extremity; and within this boundary are some fractured remains of mythological sculpture. The surrounding walls still retain their original height, exhibiting many beautiful fragments of the finely-wrought capitals that terminated the pilasters, and of a rich cornice that surmounted the whole.

Fatigued with the survey of these "pillar'd wrecks"

..... "lone monuments
Of times that were—but are not,"—

I bent my steps thoughtfully to the Serai, and passing close to a beautiful circular edifice, could only bestow upon it a momentary admiration.

We sallied forth the next morning at an early hour—my companion to complete a sketch he had already commenced—I to wander alone through the desolated town—to bid a long farewell to these interesting ruins. We felt that it would be imprudent to lengthen our stay, for in a country so lately subdued, and still the seat of war, our position could scarcely be considered secure.

The contending armies were at no greater distance than Homs, a march of two days, and the few people we saw were in hourly expecta-

tion of hearing that a decisive engagement had either confirmed Ibrahim Pasha in the possession of Syria, or wrested it entirely out of his hands. Should he experience a defeat, his scattered troops would probably retreat hither on their way to the fastnesses of Mount Lebanon, the territory of the Emeer Besheer, who had joined him with a large body of auxiliaries. In that case we should be mingled with his retreating troops, and must either submit to the necessity of accompanying the fugitives, or hazard the pillage and maltreatment to which we might be exposed from their lawless pursuers. We therefore determined to proceed the same afternoon towards Damascus, where the Egyptian troops in possession of the town, would be likely, under any circumstances, to afford us protection.

I now made my way slowly along, deeply impressed with the silent loneliness of all around.

I passed some of the principal streets, but not a house was inhabited.—I entered many a commodious dwelling, but a death-like stillness prevailed;—while swarms of vermin, and heaps of filth and fragments, left by the soldiery, every where added their polluting horrors to this scene of desolation. As I advanced,—courts with central fountains were often filled with the rubbish of fallen houses—two mosques were in ruins—and of the wide space, originally covered by the town, more than two-thirds had evidently been long abandoned.

At length I reached the Greek convent, situated near the temples, and found it tenanted by a single priest, who cordially received me. Every thing within was mean and dirty. The church had long since fallen from age and decay, and a small, obscure apartment had subsequently been appropriated to sacred uses. The construction of a new place of worship had some

years since been undertaken, but ere it was raised many feet from the ground a deficiency of funds put a stop to the building. On one side of a small court were three or four dreary cells, which had sometimes afforded lodging to European travellers, many of whom had inscribed their names as memorials on the walls. Above were two lighter and more cheerful rooms, to which an outside staircase gave access, now occupied by convalescent Egyptian officers, and these made up the whole establishment.

I was presented with coffee, and offered liqueur by this hospitable priest, but being alone, and his whole stock of Italian amounting only to two or three phrases, I was unable to obtain that local information which would have been far more acceptable. If I understood him correctly, he told me there were five Christian inhabitants, or he might have said families, in Balbec, and that he hoped for contributions from

other countries to enable him to complete the building of the church.

When I took leave he kindly sent a boy to conduct me to the temples. On the way I was joined by a man of respectable appearance, who saluting me courteously, seemed desirous to enter into conversation. This, however, was impossible, as neither of us understood the language of the other. He then made the sign of the cross on his breast, to which I responded in a similar manner, as a proof that I was a Christian, for I had now assumed the Turkish dress. This appeared to give him great satisfaction, and he made me understand that he would accompany me to the ruins, an offer which I gladly accepted.

We first reached the small circular edifice that I had yesterday thought so striking, which is fifty or sixty paces nearer the town than the more important structures before described.

Raised, like them, on a basement of masonry, a noble flight of steps led up to a spacious square door-way, richly ornamented with mouldings, and surmounted by a finely-wrought architrave.

About forty feet may be estimated as the dimensions of the interior, and among the many remains of architectural decorations which the fractured walls exhibit, the most conspicuous are a series of niches, terminating alternately in semicircular and pointed pediments, finished by a cornice above,—now all greatly defaced. The exterior of this edifice exhibits the singular arrangement of six Corinthian columns, disengaged from the wall, each, when perfect, supporting a projecting portion of rich entablature, which gives at a distance an hexagonal appearance to this part of the structure. In the circular wall of the cella, between each of these columns, are inserted grooved niches, surmounted by a frieze

enriched with figures, supporting wreaths of foliage.

It would be difficult to conjecture, with any hope of accuracy, what had been the primary destination of this edifice, for its shape, unusual and picturesque, seems less appropriate to a temple than to a cenotaph or votive monument. At a more recent period it is known to have been consecrated to Christian worship.—In the arrangement and proportions of this elegant structure, many of the established rules of architecture may perhaps be violated, but the effect of the whole is harmonious and pleasing; nor can its present shattered state be witnessed without deploring the savage violence that doomed it to destruction.

This, like the larger temples, is built of a compact limestone, capable of taking a polish, and resembling coarse-grained marble. It is found near the town, and is white when recently

fractured, although exposure to the atmosphere gives it a yellow tinge. The workmanship bestowed upon this material is invariably excellent, and many of the stones, particularly some of those of the external wall, exhibit the remains of a bevelled, or slightly rusticated edge, and all appear to have been nicely adapted to each other without the aid of mortar.

I now accompanied my courteous guide through the larger masses of ruins, greatly indebted to his kind assistance while climbing these enormous heaps, and grateful for the trouble he unceasingly took to explain every thing we saw, although, unfortunately, I did not comprehend a single word. Having thus occupied the whole morning, and wishing still to see something more of the deserted town, I was compelled to resist the inviting gestures of my guide to pass along the suburbs, where he seemed anxious to make me

understand his house was situated. When he prepared to pursue his way, I was, of course, desirous to recompense his kind attention, but he refused my proffered gift, and again crossing himself, and raising my hand to his forehead, he took his leave, while at the same moment a servant appeared in sight to announce that our preparations for departure were nearly completed.

As I returned to our temporary abode, a singular ancient construction, near the corner of a deserted street, forcibly reminded me of the "vile uses" to which the relics of fallen greatness may "come at last!" In shape and size it resembled a small square recess. Large, well-wrought stones formed the back and sides, and a similar one of suitable dimensions covered the top. The front of the latter, which still remains undefaced, was prettily ornamented with sculptured devices, and among them was the circle formed by a serpent, with its head and tail

united. The whole interior of this little structure, the destination of which I am quite at a loss to conjecture, was completely blackened with smoke, as if fires had recently and frequently been made within it. Several small domes, ornamented with circular portions of coloured glass, formed at no great distance the roof of a public bath, which had been so far repaired as to be made available to the late military occupants of the town.

Still further, I explored the crumbling remains of a spacious mosk. The entrance had been originally through a square court, surrounded with an arcade, made up principally of broken shafts, capitals, and other ancient fragments, often curiously displaced; and on one side was a marble fountain to supply water for the customary ablutions. Rows of columns had also supported the interior of the building, which exhibited a grotesque combination of ancient art

and modern barbarism. From hence all was dreary and desolate;—nothing was to be seen but encumbered streets, dilapidated houses, deserted hearths, a ruined mosque, or a tottering minaret;—for this ill-fated town, placed in a district so richly gifted by nature, and once so splendidly decorated by art, has so often suffered in the conflicts produced by the jarring interests of neighbouring chiefs, that the peaceful habits of domestic life have been broken up, all stimulus to industry destroyed, and the population itself nearly annihilated.

I soon reached the Kasmia, which, flowing by the side of the temples after having intersected the city, is crossed near the Serai by a low, ill-constructed bridge. Here an elevated rocky eminence seemed to protrude itself abruptly into the middle of the town, as if an acropolis had once crowned its commanding summit; nor is it improbable that ancient Balbec may have origi-

nated in the security which a citadel thus placed was then capable of affording. On the precipitous side of this declivity several excavations were visible, and where it was more accessible, the remains, apparently of modern buildings, might be traced to the top. It is possibly included within the circuit of the city walls, but this in our haste to quit the place we were prevented from verifying. On regaining the Serai, every thing being ready for departure, about two o'clock we began to climb the heights of Anti-Lebanon, sometimes called Jebel Sheick, and sometimes Jebel Shergy, on our way to Damascus.

CHAPTER XII.

The Road to Sergoia—A crowd of gazing Inhabitants—Civility of a Sheick—Invitation to dine at his House—Proceed to Zibdany—Concourse of Invalids—Afflicted Parent—Distribution of Medicines—Summoned to the Hareem—Female Patients—Natural Timidity—Dinner at the Sheick's—Beautiful Environs of Zibdany—Journey resumed—An ancient Necropolis.

We quitted Balbec, on the side opposite to that by which we had arrived, and near the skirts of the town observed considerable vestiges of its ancient walls, among which many carved stones were inserted. Our road, to-day, was tolerably

good, winding for the most part through cultivated valleys, and once, for a considerable distance, it followed the tortuous course of a shallow brook.

In six hours we reached Sergoia, a large village in a wide and fertile district, where, from the numerous plantations of mulberry-trees, we concluded the culture of silk to be an object of general attention. After seeking, in vain, admission to some tolerable house, we encamped in a ploughed field near the village, where the whole male population crowded upon us, and gazed with wonder at the unpacking of our beds, and our preparations for tea. Amidst many ineffectual attempts to disperse these prying spectators, as they calmly sat in a large circle around us, smoking their pipes with grave composure, we received a visit from the sheick of a neighbouring district, who had arrived in the morning to collect imposts. He civilly offered

his influence to procure for us any accommodation we might require, but intimated that the lodging provided for himself was of limited extent. The customary coffee was accepted, and on requesting to be relieved from the embarrassing curiosity of the crowd, his people flourished their whips, and all quickly dispersed. After his departure, coverings, arranged over our beds, formed an acceptable substitute for tents; while our servants lay near us on the ground, upon carpets and cloaks, with arms within reach, ready to repel any insidious attack.

June 9th.—The sun had scarcely risen, when we again set forward, and for three hours pursued a continuation of the cultivated valley we had before traversed. Here a youth of sixteen, whom I had observed on the previous night, overtook us. He was well mounted—in a gay holiday dress—was the son of the sheick who had shown us so much civility,—and now came

with a request from his father, that, as our road lay near his house, we would stop there and dine. We went forward together, and soon entered Zibdany, a straggling village, with but few tolerable houses,—when turning a little to the right, our conductor welcomed us to the paternal mansion.

In a shady nook, by the side of a considerable stream, stood a long, low building, resembling a barn or cattle-shed. A small square addition at one end, had a rude flight of steps to give access, and opposite, a large railed platform over a brook was shaded by the spreading branches of lofty trees. Another of greater height, by the side of the stream, with a mat spread on the floor, was evidently designed for the principal place of reception. This we were invited to ascend—cushions were speedily brought from the house, and coffee and pipes introduced preparatory to our meal. Three or four rustic servants assisted in unloading our baggage, and

the principal domestic, a tall, well-dressed negro, while he served us with attention, surveyed us with great curiosity.

The male population of the village soon thronged in to look at the strangers.—A select few, to whom huge turbans and flowing silvery beards gave an air of patriarchal dignity, demurely took their places on the divan, after saluting and bidding us welcome.—Others kept a more respectful distance, and deliberately seated themselves before us on the ground, or retired to a neighbouring shed.—A venerable man now pressed forward, and anxiously besought our dragoman to beg some Frank medicine for his sick son. The petitioner told a melancholy tale of a long and hopeless malady under which the unhappy sufferer seemed to be fast sinking to the grave. He received with full confidence some soothing remedies that were prepared—uttered a thousand benedictions—

and retired with an expressive overflow of grateful feeling.

His success was soon noised abroad, and to our great dismay a concourse of invalids, many of whom were nearly blind, now poured in. Here, exalted on the platform, like a mountebank on a stage, with my medicine chest on one side, and the perplexed countenance of the dragoman on the other, I listened for a good hour to a tedious catalogue of human miseries, and distributed pills and potions to the whole multitude. Our guests attended with the solemnity of eastern sages, to histories of "all the various ills that flesh is heir to"—often lifting their hands with a pious exclamation, as bottle after bottle, and box after box came forth; —but their gravity at length gave way, nor could my companion restrain his mirth at the oddity of the scene.

Physic, physic was incessantly demanded—new

candidates continually pressed forward—every hand was held out—and every pulse must be felt. Those who were pronounced in health perseveringly begged nostrums to protect them against future complaints,—remedies were importunately sought for all the maladies they had ever suffered themselves, or witnessed among their relatives and friends. But to my unspeakable relief, this ludicrous exhibition was interrupted by a summons from the hareem, to visit and prescribe for the principal wife of our host.

Accompanied by our dragoman, I now passed through the ground-floor of the mansion—literally a cattle-shed,—for it served the double purpose of stable and sheepfold. An opposite door gave admission to a large court. This had on one side a row of buildings of one story, divided into separate dwellings,—on the second a long shed for cooking, where I saw the preparations for our dinner going forward—and

on the two others a high wall and a small detached house. Close to the principal habitation was a divan of masonry, over which a carpet was instantly thrown, and on this, by a sign, I was invited to place myself. The lady now came forth—made the customary salutations, and took her seat by my side—a servant at the same time handing coffee to both. A thick veil concealed her face, but readily withdrawn to show her tongue, was afterwards allowed to hang carelessly aside. Her age might be thirty-five—she had once been handsome—had the dark brilliant eyes of the east—but looked pale and sickly. With the exception of a shawl, her dress was of ordinary materials—her eye-lashes were delicately tinged with khola, (antimony,) and small gold coins were mingled with her tresses and strung round her forehead. Easy and unembarrassed in manner, although she indulged sparingly in conversation, she told me

that the youth who had conducted us hither was her son.

Other inmates of the hareem now came forward to obtain advice, either for themselves or their children. On rising to take leave, I was informed that some neighbouring females were desirous to come and consult me,—a group, at the same moment, appearing shrouded like ghosts, in white veils and wrappers. The elder ladies passed the ordeal of inquiry with unreluctant alacrity, but one — young and unmarried — long resisted all importunities to uncover her face. She adroitly thrust the tip of her tongue through the folds of her veil, and holding out her arm, obstinately insisted that her pulse would make known all her complaints. When, however, repeatedly assured that no judgment could be formed of her health unless I examined her countenance, she timidly lifted her veil, but disappointed me by exhibiting no beauty,

save a delicate complexion and the ordinary freshness of youth.

I now quitted the hareem, and saw nothing farther of the interior of the house, for dinner was immediately served where we had first taken our places. Thin cakes, fresh from the oven, were laid in a circle on the matted floor. Next came a pile of pillauf, made of rice and morsels of mutton, stewed in butter, and served in a round metal dish, placed on the ground in the centre of the cakes.—Horn spoons, with long handles were then brought, and five or six tinned basins of curdled milk, with a single dish of fried eggs, highly seasoned, perhaps the representative of a European omelet. As the guests now rose to leave the platform, the principal domestic made us a signal to begin. We then invited the son of our host to partake with us of the repast. He took immediately his seat on the ground, and the venerable greybeards

readily obeying his summons to join the circle; all turned up their sleeves with preparatory precaution. We, in the mean time, had called for our own plates and spoons, and each began, without ceremony, to help himself. Our taciturn companions seemed to eat indiscriminately of all that was before them. Their cakes performed the duty of plates, upon which, having placed a handful of pillauf, they ate a few mouthfuls, and then a few spoonfuls of sour milk, with occasionally a little of the omelet, although that delicacy seemed specially provided for us.

This frugal repast finished, each as he was satisfied descended separately from the divan. A small metal porringer, filled from a neighbouring spring, supplied the only beverage that was offered. Soap, water, and towels, were handed to all, while the fragments of the feast, removed to the other platform, regaled our servants, and those belonging to the

house. More patients now flocked in, but the baggage was packed,—the muleteers had commenced charging their beasts,—coffee was served,—pipes were declined,—and we hastened away, lest an attempt should be made to take the contents of the medicine-chest by storm.

Some remains of Greek architecture were observed at Zibdany by the enterprising Browne; but I was too deeply plunged in pharmaceutical duties, and we were both too anxious to reach Damascus, to admit of our ascertaining if they still exist. At our departure we passed a bath, and a few persons sitting on the ground with bread, onions, &c., in baskets, for sale. The sheick's black servant who went with us for some distance, lest we should take a wrong direction, surprised me by sagaciously asking whether the *dowr kibbeer*, (powerful medicine,) if it failed in effecting a cure, would injure the invalids. At length he quitted us in a wide

road, watered by a plentiful rivulet, and bordered on each side with fragrant hedges of luxuriant single roses.—But the whole country round Zibdany was highly cultivated and picturesque. Fine pastures, divided by flourishing hedge rows, were frequently seen, with groups of cattle reposing under the shade of spreading trees. The land under tillage was covered with plentiful crops, while the neighbouring river supplied in abundance the means of irrigation.

For nearly two hours our route continued through this fertile district, when, quitting the valley, and winding up a gradual ascent, we reached in two hours more a singular gorge, or pass in the mountains. Here we crossed a high, narrow bridge, thrown over a deep ravine, and saw the Barrada, a large rapid stream, flowing below on its way to Damascus. On the left of this rugged channel rose a huge, rocky acclivity, of great height, and of a somewhat curved, or

semi-elliptical shape. The base had been hewn into ranges of steps resembling the seats of an ancient theatre; and about midway were rows of square well-formed openings, as if leading to excavated rooms within. This remarkable rock we could only observe across the ravine, but at that distance its whole surface bore the appearance of having been wrought by art, and the ranges of steps seemed designed to give access to the entrances above. Concluding this to be an ancient necropolis, we conjectured it might be that of Abila, which we knew was situated on this side of Damascus.

The road here turned abruptly to the left, dividing into two or three narrow passes, deeply cut through that part of the rocky summit which is opposite to the Necropolis,—the whole consisting of stalactitic matter in all its usual variety of forms. These deep tracks, that do not allow two horses to pass each other, made a sharp

angle or two, as if to admit of being easily defended, and then united at some distance beyond, into a road of ordinary width. A fine white dust, to which so soft a material is easily reduced, completely concealed the peculiar formation of this curious mass of aqueous deposit. I afterwards heard from Monsieur Beaudin, at Damascus, that large quantities of bones, popularly believed to be human, are frequently found imbedded within it, and that the ravine below is thickly strewed with remnants of walls, and wrecks of columns.

CHAPTER XIII.

Arrival at Zook—Ancient Remains—Site of Abila—Lodge at the House of a Sheick—Appearance of the Village—The River Barrada—Zibeeb made from Grapes—Leave Zook for Damascus—Pass the Bridge of Dhemmar—First view of Damascus from the Kobbet el Nazzar—Beauty of the prospect heightened by contrast—Aspect of the City—Course of the Barrada through the arid plain.

A DISTANCE of ten minutes now brought us to the village of Zook, a little to the left of the high road, where our guides proposed to pass the night, and here we quickly discovered evident remains of former edifices. Slight modern

houses, near the entrance of this inconsiderable village, were often raised on ancient, massive foundations. — Well-squared stones,—many of considerable size,—were lying about in all directions.—On an elevated point, which commanded a fine prospect down the valley, were fragments of large and small columns. A few broken shafts still retaining their position, proved by their situation and magnitude that they once belonged to an important structure. These were immediately in front of a barber's shop, and into this little recess I peeped with great curiosity, but my antiquarian anticipations were only rewarded by seeing a small room, well-plastered walls and a matted floor.

On pursuing my researches, I found at the back of this habitation only insignificant modern houses. The occupants civilly invited me to enter the courtyard, but every thing within was so neatly plastered, that all vestiges of antiquity,

if any existed, were effectually concealed. In a narrow adjoining street, a coarsely-sculptured altar was built into the wall, and many large stones, with moulded edges, were similarly placed.

In the Augustan tables, the situation of Abila is laid down at eighteen miles from Damascus, and thirty-two from Heliopolis, (Balbec,)—a distance which approaches sufficiently near the actual position of Zook to warrant the conclusion,* that this may be the site of the ancient town. But the insecure state of the country,

* Ptolemy gives to the town, between Heliopolis and Damascus, the name of Abila Lysaniæ, which corresponds with the narrative of St. Luke, who dates the commencement of the preaching of John the Baptist "when Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene."

I have since heard, with much satisfaction, that Mr. Bankes, in previously exploring this district, discovered inscriptions which establish the identity of this ancient site.

and the uncertain issue of the expected conflict at Homs, compelled us unwillingly to forego all further antiquarian investigation.

When we reached the middle of the village we were admitted without difficulty into the courtyard of the sheick, a respectable rustic. A small wooden door in the street opened upon steps, which descended into a roofed passage; and here a high platform, on one side, was cheerfully offered for our beds and baggage. Beyond was an open court, with small separate buildings on three of its sides, and on the fourth a low wall, from whence there was a fine view of the valley, and of the rushing torrent beneath, while at the end of our dormitory a water-jug on a small pedestal of masonry, supplied indiscriminately all who were thirsty. The two wives of our host, closely veiled, immediately sprinkled and swept the platform and court,—they afterwards good-naturedly

set forth in different directions, one to seek water and the other milk.

Unwilling to waste time, we gladly took advantage of the short interval before sunset to examine the distant parts of the village. The houses were prettily sprinkled over the sloping sides of the valley, but, with the usual negligence of the east, were half-concealed by heaps of dust and refuse. Although small, each stood within a walled court, and all were distinguished by a certain air of neatness, as if they rather belonged to little landed proprietors, than needy peasants. None of the inhabitants were meanly dressed, and all were civil and obliging.

From a large hut of green boughs in the lower part of the valley, we heard a continual creaking noise. Here, on entering, we found a man employed, with a primitive-looking machine, in winding silk. A quantity of brilliant yellow cocoons were placed in a vessel of water over a

fire. A large wheel, with a bent handle in the centre, was turned by the naked foot of the operator, and a cord passing round its circumference, put in motion a reel, on which were four skeins of silk, and thus *both* his hands were left at liberty to attach the fine threads of the cocoons that were continually breaking. At the foot of the declivity, with a high ridge abruptly rising behind it, flowed the Barrada, which having formed a cascade above, here glided quietly along, affording a secure retreat to shoals of trout, probably never molested, as none could be purchased.

On our return we found our tea prepared, and our beds put up. Our arrival in the village, having excited much curiosity, a group of men, with a few women closely veiled, soon gathered round us, but showed no disposition to be intrusive or troublesome. Some that were sick requested medicine, which was received

with thankfulness;—both sexes begged khola;—the women for tinging their eyelashes,—the men as a remedy for inflamed eyelids, here lamentably prevalent; and all regarded with expressions of wonder, our metal bedsteads, knives, forks, and cooking utensils. Our repast concluded, some of them still lingered in the court, surveying with attention all our movements; but when told we were desirous of going to bed, and unaccustomed to undress in public, they quickly dispersed, much diverted at our delicacy. The door was then locked, and the master of the house took possession of the rude wooden key.

Our preparations for departure commenced the next morning (July 10th) at an early hour. On entering the courtyard, I observed that the whole family, including a male domestic, had slept in the open air. In front of one of the cottages, raised a few feet from the ground, was a small square terrace, with a slight wooden

roof, perhaps intended for the children, as we sometimes heard the cry of an infant in the night. On the other side of the court, another terrace, larger, and still more elevated, but unprotected by a shed, was spread with mats, over which were laid good mattrasses and pillows, with well-stuffed cotton quilts. The servant slept at some distance on the ground, with only a mat and a single coverlet.

We left Zook at six o'clock, and soon regained our former road. The whole of the valley within sight was industriously cultivated, and many parts were laid out in extensive vineyards. Wine being forbidden by the Mohammedan law, a kind of thick syrup, or conserve, called Zibeeb, made from grapes, is esteemed a great delicacy in the East, where it is used for giving flavour to sherbet.

Our road continued for a short distance only, within sight of the river, and then lay over arid

and barren heights, which formed a melancholy contrast to the fertility we had just quitted. In three hours we entered a long winding valley, where we again saw the Barrada flowing with a broad and deep current, apparently augmented, since we had left it at Zook, by other mountain streams. Here a luxuriant strip of vegetation, interspersed with orchards of magnificent fruit-trees, bordered the river through its whole course to the village of Dhemmar. We there passed a stone bridge, on which was a tablet, with a long Arabic inscription, and then turned with regret out of this rich valley, that we had vainly hoped would speedily conduct us to the city, as we observed its delicious verdure winding away to the right, among the dry and dazzling declivities that every where inclosed it. We next climbed a steep and rugged ascent, and crossing the side of the mountain, with little or no appearance of a beaten track, at length reached

the foot of the highest elevation of this desolate ridge. At this place was a capacious reservoir, with a small entrance, and a long flight of steps leading to the bottom. It was half filled with stagnant, ill-tasted water, which notwithstanding our muleteers drank with great avidity. Wine, after leaving Tripoly, was a luxury we had never met with, but the intense thirst produced by the daily exposure for many hours to a burning sun, gave so exquisite a relish to the cool translucent springs which often gushed from the sides of the valleys, that we scarcely felt the deprivation.

A short ascent now brought us to the summit of the mountain, and we saw Damascus lying at our feet in the plain beneath. A small arched building, called Kobbet el Nazzar, here afforded us grateful shade and temporary repose. The chain of mountains we had crossed had every where a rugged, desolate aspect.—The fruitful

vale we had lately left was no longer in sight.—Behind, and immediately around us, was a dreary waste, without a vestige of vegetation, varied only by irregular masses of rock, that here and there protruded through a white surface of crumbling, calcareous matter.—Below us, in front, an extensive plain, two-thirds inclosed by cheerless and repulsive heights, stretched away to the left, farther than the eye could reach, in one long level of solitary desolation.—In this plain, upon which we looked, from an elevation, perhaps, of a thousand feet,—and apparently at the distance of a league from its base,—appeared Damascus, so vaunted throughout the East for its happy position, plentiful streams, perpetual verdure, and abundant produce.

A long line of buildings, of unequal breadth, intermingled with innumerable minarets, groups of small domes, and other elevated structures,

rising through rich masses of foliage, that seemed to throw a delicious depth of shade over the whole, here promised to realize every preconceived notion of oriental beauty and splendour.

One of the extremities of the city formed a circuit of ample and imposing dimensions; while, what appeared to be a long, narrow suburb, extending far away in the opposite direction, gave it a shape, for which the ladle of the janissaries, once celebrated as their ensign, might have served as a model. A belt of verdure, of delicious freshness, and of considerable width, surrounded the whole, displaying all the richly-varied tints of the most luxuriant foliage I ever beheld, but of far less extent than the poetical descriptions of eastern writers would warrant the belief. Inclosures of lofty fruit-trees, with occasional clusters of cypresses majestically towering above them, con-

tribute principally to form this conspicuous zone of verdure; for here, in a soil favourable to the growth of trees, and plentifully supplied with water, they acquire a size and vigour elsewhere unknown;—while the contrast of surrounding sterility gives to this splendid fringe of foliage the effect of an oasis in the midst of a desert.—Beyond this fertile boundary all again is dreariness and solitude. The Barrada, having quitted the mountains, flows through the plain in a wide and deep channel, divested of vegetation, in which, from the heights above, no water is visible. As it approaches the city it divides into several branches, and these subdivide, as they advance,into innumerable fertilizing streams. But within this circuit only these waters seem to dispense their beneficent influence,—for ere they quit the vicinity of the town, the different branches once more unite, and a bare, undu-

lating outline alone marks the course of the river, as it rolls away to form a distant lake, whose waters are said to be silently absorbed by the arid sands of the desert.

NOTES.

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FERTILIZATION OF LAVA.

THIS singular phenomenon has been thus philosophically explained by Sir William Gell, in his "Topography of Rome and its Vicinity."

"It has been proved that volcanic lapillæ, and volcanic productions in general, possess in an eminent degree the power of retaining moisture, (imbibing with ease seven-eighths of water,) and that their humidity is a principal cause of their fertility. Mixed with the soil, and impregnated with a store of moisture acquired during the winter months, they occasion in the ensuing summer the fertility so remarkable in the vicinity of Naples."—Vol. i. p. 250.

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THE FUNGUS OF GOZO.

This curious plant, the Cynomorium Coccineum, allied to the Arum tribe, was introduced into the old Pharmacopœias, under the name of Fungus Melitensis.

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PLAGUE.

Egypt, after continuing free from plague eleven years, has at length been fearfully ravaged by that dreadful scourge. Various accounts are given of the manner in which it was introduced, but all concur in attributing it to a clandestine infraction of the quarantine regulations at Alexandria. Among a fanatical people, whose religious prejudices are directly opposed to all measures of precaution, it of course spread with frightful rapidity. The mortality at one time amounted in Cairo to twelve hundred a day.

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MOHAMMED ALI.

After censuring some of the enormities of Mohammed Ali's government, it would be a glaring injustice not to acknowledge his conspicuous talents and humane disposition. Mr. Wilkinson, in his valuable work on Egypt, deems it "incumbent to pay a just tribute to the character of the pasha," although he cannot approve "his mode of government;"* in which sentiment I cordially acquiesce. The erudite and estimable author of that work, to whom I have been indebted, as well in Egypt as in England, for much interesting and valuable information, has favoured me with the following characteristic anecdote. A few years since, as the pasha and his suite passed through one of the quarters of Cairo, he was fired at from a window by a person unseen. He desired the house to be noticed, and without apprehension pursued his way. The occupant, an unemployed Bimbashee, (military officer,) was summoned to the palace. On being questioned, he readily acknowledged that he had fired the shot. "What could induce you," asked the pasha, "to attempt my life? I never did injury to you, or to any belonging to you." The officer

* See "Topography of Thebes and General View of Egypt," p. 282.

replied, "I was weary of my existence, and knew that it was a sure way to be relieved from the burden." "And why are you tired of life?" inquired the pasha. "I have been reduced to beggary—have no employment—am without resources," was the desponding answer. The pasha's countenance exhibited evident signs of emotion. "From this moment," he continued, "you shall have the means of support;" adding with emphatic solemnity—"but let useful employment henceforth restrain you from the contemplation of crime." To account for this desperate act it may be right to observe that deliberate suicide is unknown among Moslems. They believe it would involve their eternal perdition, and therefore bear any earthly infliction rather than incur the dreaded penalty of everlasting misery.

Mohammed Ali is said to be a native of Cavali in Roumelia, born in 1768. He came into Egypt as a soldier of fortune in 1801, and was raised to the Pashalic in 1806. It is generally believed that his first wife was a widow with three sons, but I have been assured by those who have access to persons immediately about the pasha, that this is incorrect, and that Ibrahim and his late brothers were always distinguished and acknowledged by the pasha as his own children.

Mr. Wilkinson's long residence at Cairo has enabled him to remark that there are fewer capital punishments in Egypt than perhaps in any other country under the administration of regular laws.

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THE MARONITES.

The early history of the Maronites, a Christian sect of great antiquity, has been warmly controverted; but whether they were originally tainted with the metaphysical subtleties, once so prevalent in the East, is now of little importance. They refer the derivation of their name to St. Maron, a pious recluse in the fifth century. They submitted in the thirteenth century to the jurisdiction of the church of Rome, and by papal permission continue to enjoy unusual privileges. Their priests are allowed to marry;—the sacramental cup is not withheld from the laity;—a liturgy in Syriac and Arabic is permitted, and their primitive form of church-government remains unchanged. The Maronites have sometimes evinced a military spirit, but were reduced to tributary obedience by Amurath III. in the sixteenth century.

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IBRAHIM PASHA.

As I had no opportunity of seeing Ibrahim Pasha, it may not be uninteresting to the reader to be furnished with some particulars of an interview with him derived from a private but authentic source. The travellers were passing through Asia Minor at the close of Ibrahim's victorious course in the spring of 1833.

"On reaching Kiutayah, where Ibrahim Pasha was quietly stationed, we gladly seized the opportunity of making a visit to this extraordinary man. He was sitting in the oriental style upon a carpet under a tree, caressing and fondling the child of a neighbouring peasant, and at the same time conversing with Osman Pacha, the naval commander. Coarse in personal appearance, his manner was frank and open. He readily gave information as to affairs within his own cognizance, professing, however, to be guided entirely by the orders of his father, Mohammed Ali. His character throughout the East is that of an able and fearless military leader. Active service seems to be his element. His plans once formed nothing can repress his ardour; and, careless of personal accommodation, he willingly sleeps on the ground with a stone for his pillow.

"We dined with him in the open air. A simple repast was served in the usual style on a Turkish tray. Knives, forks, and spoons were laid. The mode of cooking rendered the former unnecessary, and the guests helped themselves with the same spoons and forks with which they ate. No kind of beverage, not even water, was offered with our meal.

"The conversation of Ibrahim was without restraint. He spoke of the Turks and Arabs as being totally different in their views and feelings. The Arab he characterized as lively and docile—willing to receive instruction—acting cheerfully under the direction of Europeans, brave, capable of enduring great fatigue, and ever ready to meet the Turk in the field, although their exists between them no personal animosity.

"In cavalry the Arabs are conspicuously superior, their horses far surpassing those of the Turks both in strength and weight.

"Ibrahim freely expressed his sentiments as to the political views of Russia. To secure the Dardanelles he considered to be their great object;—to them, of far higher importance than to arrest his own successful progress. He thought the present juncture favourable to the views long entertained against Turkey by Russia, remarking, that if these *disinterested* auxiliaries

should now be prevailed upon to retire, they would prove themselves to have more forbearance, or less political sagacity, than he had hitherto given them credit for. It was his opinion, that were a Russian army to occupy Asia Minor, either with or without the consent of the Sultan, the inhabitants would probably submit to their government with apathetic indifference; convinced, if they reasoned on the subject, that under Russian occupation there would be greater security for life and property, than under the tyrannic rule of their Turkish masters. But were the energies of the people to be roused, a task which Ibrahim declared would be easy to himself, he could raise in Asia Minor alone an army of 200,000 men, and defying the power of Russia, in forty days would be master of the whole country to the Sea of Marmora. Should it become necessary to take this step, arms and accoutrements only would be required, as he possessed already ammunition in abundance.

"We learnt that the Egyptians, at the battle of Koniah,* brought into the field sixteen thousand regulars, and two thousand Bedoween cavalry, with thirty-six pieces of cannon; and that their adversaries mustered

* Fought December 19th, 1832, when the Turks were completely defeated, and the grand vizir taken prisoner.

fifty-two thousand regulars, supported by seventy-five pieces of artillery. At one time the issue of the day was doubtful, for the left wing was thrown into confusion, while the right hurried on to pursue an advantage they had gained. Suleiman Bey (Col. Sève) restored order, and the victory was chiefly secured by his judicious dispositions. In the course of the campaign, one hundred and fifty-two pieces of artillery were captured by the Egyptians. Of forty thousand camels that left Cairo with the army, and of nearly a hundred thousand afterwards taken up on the road, scarcely five hundred had survived the cold."—*MS. Diary.*

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THE LADLE OF THE JANISSARIES.

The Janissaries wear a brass plate in their full dress caps, instead of a plume. "In this they stick a clumsy wooden spoon, with which they eat their rice, and which thus forms an essential part of their costume."—*Ali Bey's Travels,* vol. ii. p. 363.

END OF VOL. I.

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